

## When You are Unexpected

Luke 1; Matthew 1; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 12-11-22

Christmas is the message of why we need to rest in Jesus.

- Because He is perfect God. (John 1)
- Because He is perfect Man. (Luke 1:26-56; Matthew 1:18-25)

We need to expect the unexpected.

- God fulfills His promises through the unexpected and to the unexpected!
- Expect God to fulfill His promises and then be surprised by nothing!

### 1. *Unexpected the Inconceivable: We must believe in miracles.*

They were unexpected (not expecting) the inconceivable (a barren old woman and a unmarried virgin having babies). The Bible reveals that Jesus was born of a virgin. – Luke 1:37, 34; Matthew 1:23; Isaiah 7:10-16

Doctrine: *The Virgin Birth of Christ*

“The Son of God, the second person of the Holy Trinity, is truly and eternally God. He is the brightness of the Father’s glory, the same in substance and equal with him. He made the world and sustains and governs everything he has made. When the fullness of time came, he took upon himself human nature, with all the essential properties and common weaknesses of it but without sin. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary. The Holy Spirit came down upon her, and the power of the Most High overshadowed her. Thus, he was born of a woman from the tribe of Judah, a descendant of Abraham and David in fulfillment of the Scriptures. Two whole, perfect, and distinct natures were inseparably joined together in one person, without converting one into the other or mixing them together to produce a different or blended nature. This person is truly God and truly man, yet one Christ, the only mediator between God and humanity.” – *Chapter 8, 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith*

We are not saved simply by what we believe to be true about Christ, but by trusting Him. But you can’t trust Christ savingly apart from what you believe to be true about Christ. The Reformation definition of true faith includes knowledge (of the gospel truth), assent or agreement (with the truth proclaimed in the gospel) and trust (reliance upon Christ in light of the truth). If we deny miracles, then we deny the virgin birth, then we deny the deity of Christ and His righteousness, then we deny our salvation. We must believe in miracles to be saved! – Jeremiah 23:6

### 2. *Unexpected the Necessary: We must believe in the need for obedience.*

They were unexpected (not expecting) God to do for them what was necessary for them to do for God (obedience to His commands). The reason for the virgin birth is the need for a perfect record of righteousness. – Luke 1:35; Matthew 1:20; 3:4-17

Doctrine: *The Active Obedience of Christ*

“The Lord Jesus, in his human nature united in this way to the divine in the person of the Son, was sanctified and anointed with the Holy Spirit beyond measure. He had in himself all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. The Father was pleased to make all fullness dwell in him so that—being holy, harmless, undefiled, and full of grace and truth—he was thoroughly qualified to carry out the office of mediator and guarantor. He did not take this office upon himself but was called to it by his Father, who put all power and judgment in his hand and commanded him to carry them out.... The Lord Jesus most willingly undertook this office. To discharge it, he was born under the law and perfectly fulfilled it. ... The Lord Jesus has fully satisfied the justice of God, obtained reconciliation, and purchased an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven for all those given to him by the Father. He has accomplished these things by his perfect obedience and sacrifice of himself, which he once for all offered up to God through the eternal Spirit.” - *Chapter 8, 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith*

We often don't see our need of perfect righteousness because we take grace for granted. – 2 Corinthians 5:21

### **3. *Unexpected the Undeserved: We must receive the gift of righteousness.***

They were unexpected (not expecting) God to give them the gracious gift that He gave (a gift of righteousness). Jesus lived the life we could never live. - Luke 1:54; Matthew 1:21; Romans 5:12-21; Jeremiah 33:16

Doctrine: *The Imputation of Christ's Righteousness*

“Those God effectually calls he also freely justifies. He does this, not by infusing righteousness into them but by pardoning their sins and accounting and accepting them as righteous. He does this for Christ's sake alone and not for anything produced in them or done by them. He does not impute faith itself, the act of believing, or any other gospel obedience to them as their righteousness. Instead, he imputes Christ's active obedience to the whole law and passive obedience in his death as their whole and only righteousness by faith. This faith is not self-generated; it is the gift of God. Faith that receives and rests on Christ and his righteousness is the only instrument of justification. Yet it does not occur by itself in the person justified, but it is always accompanied by every other saving grace. It is not a dead faith but works through love. By his obedience and death, Christ fully paid the debt of all those who are justified. He endured in their place the penalty they deserved. By this sacrifice of himself in his bloodshed on the cross, he legitimately, really, and fully satisfied God's justice on their behalf. Yet their justification is based entirely on free grace, because he was given by the Father for them, and his obedience and satisfaction were accepted in their place. These things were done freely, not because of anything in them, so that both the exact justice and the rich grace of God would be glorified in the justification of sinners.” – *Chapter 11, 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith*

***Are you expecting God to keep His promises to you through the unexpected?***

***Have you received the gift of Christ's righteousness?***