

“No Replacements Available”

In one of our Midwest cities it was customary around Christmas time to place a manger scene in the city’s central park. Someone always supplied the blanket to keep the Baby Jesus warm in the crib. But one night the Baby Jesus was missing. Someone had taken the life-size figurine which symbolized the essence of Christmas. In reporting this the local newspaper said that the City Council expressed hope that the figurine would be returned before Christmas and that someone would supply a blanket, and added, “It would be difficult to find a replacement!” (Rein, 594)

The person who said, “It would be difficult to find a replacement!” unwittingly told the reporter a divine truth that we shall do well not to forget on Christmas as we gather with family and friends. You see, the angel said to the shepherds: “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11, ESV). The apostle Paul further adds, “When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons” (Galatians 4:4, ESV).

Indeed, this Jesus is the Savior of the world. He is your Savior and mine! He is the One who saves His people from their sins and promises them eternal life.

It would be difficult, nay, impossible to find a replacement, a new Savior, because there is no other replacement, no other Savior from sin. Truly, no other replacements are available. St. Peter says, “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name given under heaven to men by which we are saved (Acts 2:12).

Many people throughout the centuries have tried to find a replacement for the Christ Child. Some attempted to replace Jesus as Lord and God by earning or working their way to heaven, but the nagging question: “Did I do enough?” never went away. Others tried to lose themselves in the fast lane, abusing their bodies with drugs and alcohol, and engaging in shameful activities that they later regarded, and when the buzz and high were gone their guilty conscious accused them of their guilt and they hung their reddened face in shame.

It is impossible to find a replacement for Jesus since there is no other Savior from sin

than the One who was born in Bethlehem on that first Christmas so long ago. He came into the fallen and darkened world of sin as the God-man for our redemption and consolation. By dying a cruel and bloody death on a rugged cross, foretold and promised since ancient times by the Old Testament prophets, Jesus saves His people from their sins and brings them everlasting life.



As you hand out to your family and open your many gifts on Christmas Eve, please take a little time to remember with your family the greatest Gift of all: Christ the Lord! The Bible says, “God sent forth His Son in the fullness of time ...” (Galatians 4:4) for you and for me! Tell your spouse, your children, your neighbors, your friends, your coworkers, and everyone else that it is not only difficult to find a replacement for Christ the Lord, it is impossible! No replacements available.

Merry Christmas 2018!

Pastor Cliff Adair