## "For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved." (John 3:17)

## Unto you a Savior is born:



## Christ the Lord

"Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For UNTO YOU is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2/10, 11).

## WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED

While shepherds watch'd their flocks by night, All seated on the ground, The angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone around.

"Fear not!" he said, for mighty dread Had seized their troubled mind. "Glad tidings of great joy I bring To you and all mankind.

"To you, in David's town, this day Is born of David's line A Savior, who is Christ the Lord, And this shall be the sign.

"The heavenly Babe you there shall find To human view displayed, All meanly wrapped in swathing bands, And in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph and forthwith Appeared a shining throng Of angels praising God on high, Who thus addressed their song:

"All glory be to God on high, And to the Earth be peace; Good will henceforth from Heaven to men Begin and never cease!"

The carol "While Shepherds Watched" dates back to 1703 and was written by Nahum Tate, (Poet Laureate in the reign of Queen Anne), and Nicholas Brady.

It is amazing that it was shepherds, (common ordinary working men), and not kings and rulers to whom God sent the angel with his thrilling message of the birth of the Savior. Similarly, Matthew records that the civil and religious leaders were completely ignorant of this tremendous event and were stunned to learn from the visiting magi that Christ had been born.

At His birth, through His life, and even at His death, the Lord Jesus displayed His compassion and love for those the world often overlooks. He healed lepers, forgaveoutcast sinners, responded to the cries of blind beggars, welcomed the lost, preached to the poor, and even saved a crucified, dying malefactor.

This, of course, displays the heart of God Who loves the world and desires everyone to be saved. No matter who you are, and no matter what you have done, you will find a Savior ready to receive you and forgive you if you will turn to Him in repentance. That is another way of saying what the Bible teaches: "For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of works, lest anyone should boast" (Ephesians 2:8).

In the Bible, this message of salvation is called "The Gospel." That is the message message God wishes to convey to us all - that He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus, to be the Savior of the world.