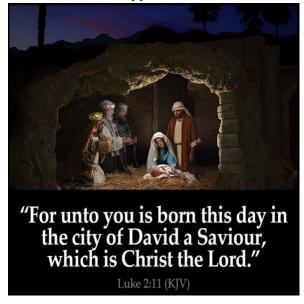
**Topic:** Christmas Day

## Let the Party Begin!

The guests are all present. The house is fully decorated. And the gifts are wrapped and displayed neatly in a corner of the room. Today is the celebration of a landmark birthday.

One question: is the honoree present? Did you invite Jesus Christ to His own party? Or, did you just assume that He knew He was supposed to attend? Sometimes we throw a party and once it is in full swing, we realize someone



important is not there. We ask the question, "Where is \_\_\_\_\_ tonight." In hindsight, we may realize that we didn't really tell the missing person how badly we wanted them to attend.

Today's celebration is the birthday of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There has never been, nor will ever be, a more important birthday than that. Of all our friends and family, He is the one we should most want to be present. It is His party, honoring Him. Have you told him, lately, how much you love Him? Have you told Him how much you wanted Him to be part of your life? Did you send Him an invitation or just hope He shows up on His own?

It is not too late. He's outside the door, standing in the cold, waiting to be invited inside – inside your heart. He is carrying with Him gifts for you. They are the best gifts you will ever receive. They are the gifts of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. It's His party and yet *He* is the giver of gifts.

But, you've got to want Him in your house, and in your heart. Some people's invitations are more of a formality, with little meaning. "Stop by when you are in the area." Or, "we've got to get together sometime." Rarely does "sometime come, "because it is really not said with total sincerity.

It's not too late to invite Jesus into your life, even though the party has already started. You can pause the festivities and make a statement to all those in attendance. Call attention at your family gathering to the reason for the season and the purpose of today's celebration. Your testimony may inspire others. Let the inspiration begin with you and be the catalyst that helps others more fully understand what Christmas is all about.

We have much to celebrate. The preparation is over. Christmas Day is here. That is cause to celebrate.

Happy Birthday, Jesus! We want You to be part of our lives.

**Scripture:** Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord (Luke 2:11).

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father. Today we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ. You sent Him to live among us, experience life's issues and to show us a better way of life. We invite Jesus into our midst – our home, our workplace and our heart. Amen.