

**Introduction:**

- Each Christmas for the past nearly six decades, Americans have gathered around the TV to watch one of the most iconic and beloved cartoon animations of all time, A Charlie Brown Christmas. And within this iconic show, is one of the most iconic scenes ever scripted -- Linus' monologue about the true meaning of Christmas. bMocked, humiliated, and confused, Charlie Brown cries out, "Doesn't anybody know what Christmas is all about?!"
- Linus gently replies, "I know what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown." And with that He takes center stage to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel as recorded in Luke Chapter Two: But have you ever noticed what happens right in the middle of that monologue? Linus drops his blanket!
- Jason Soroski, writing for The Gospel Coalition, has this to say ...
  - Linus is most associated with his ever-present security blanket. Throughout the story of Peanuts, Lucy, Snoopy, Sally and others all work to no avail to separate Linus from his blanket. And even though his security blanket remains a major source of ridicule for the otherwise mature and thoughtful Linus, he simply refuses to give it up.
  - Until this moment. When he simply drops it. In that climactic scene when Linus shares what "Christmas is all about," he drops his security blanket, and I am now convinced that this is intentional. Most telling is the specific moment he drops it: when he utters the words "fear not" (at :44 seconds). **Application:** ... in the midst of fear and insecurity, this simple cartoon image from 1965 continues to live on as an inspiration for us to seek true peace and true security in the one place it has always been and can always still be found. Illustration Exchange; "Just Drop the Blanket" by JASON SOROSKI, published GospelCoalition.org, DECEMBER 21, 2015 |
- Another thing that will help you drop your insecurity blanket...Wonder!

**I. The Wonder of Children**

- A. Mark 10:15 *"Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."* NKJV One of the many beautiful facets of children is their simplicity to believe. Children love learning! And watching them learn is a joyous event because they are filled with such wonder.
- B. Wonder - is a feeling of surprise mingled with admiration, caused by something beautiful, unexpected, unfamiliar, or inexplicable. Ie. Watching Makyah turn on the Christmas lights and then shout, "I did it! Come Pawpaw let's look!" Wonder...! As a child I remember so many things of Christmas:
  1. Buying our Christmas tree. The lights, hot chocolate, oranges and apples.
  2. Decorating that tree together as a family...Charlie Brown Christmas, Rudolph, etc.
  3. Going shopping for mom's gift with dad.

4. Transistor radio tracking Santa on Christmas Eve. All of these created wonder in the heart of a little child. There are surprise moments in life caused by something beautiful and unexpected that capture the heart and later cause us to ponder them.
- C. Luke 2:19 *"But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart"*. NKJV
  1. Ponder - Greek Word is *sumballo*. It comes from two words: 1. *Sun-* a preposition - together, with, associated, companion. 2. *Ballo*, a verb meaning to throw, cast, put together. The NLT translates this word as, "she thought about them often." It means to think about something carefully, to weigh it in one's mind.
  2. Mary took all these things in the Christmas story and pondered them in her heart. She thought about them and weighed them in her mind, giving priority to importance. She was filing them each to their place in her heart and mind. What was it that she pondered? Let me list a few...

## II. The Wonders of Christmas

### A. The Natural Wonders

1. An angel, Gabriel, appears and tells her that she is pregnant and will give birth to the Christ child.
  - a) How can this be? Luke 1:34
  - b) Let it be to me according to your word. Luke 1:38
  - c) This is a moment filled with wonder!
2. Joseph is in the process of divorcing Mary, he has a dream and is told by an angel, "Take Mary, to be your wife." In the midst of all the emotions that Joseph is in, he hears from God to marry her for she is having God's baby!
  - a) He dreams this dream Matthew 1:20-ff
  - b) He awakes and instantly he obeys.
  - c) This is a moment filled with wonder!
3. Shepherds show up unexpectedly looking for baby Jesus. Luke 2:8-ff
  - a) They too have seen angels and heard them sing.
  - b) They are sent to Bethlehem to find the Savior, who is Christ the King. Luke 2:11
  - c) And this will be a sign to you: He will be a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger. (That is a lot of detail for a prophetic word given to Shepherds) A moment filled with wonder!
4. Wise men come from far away. They find Jesus by following a star! From the nations of the east they follow a star? That is different! And they bring gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
  - a) They came to worship Him. Picture yourself as Mary. These wise men find your home. Matthew 2:11 *"When they had come into the house."* They knock on the door and want to come in and worship your baby! Wouldn't that amaze you

and cause you to wonder. A moment filled with wonder!

5. Simeon and Anna, who are elderly—they have been waiting all their lives to see the Messiah. And when they do they instantly begin to praise God and to prophesy!
  - a) *"My eyes have seen your salvation."* Luke 2:30
  - b) *"A Light to bring revelation to the Gentiles and glory to your people Israel."* Luke 2:32
  - c) This is just amazing that strangers would walk up to you and your baby and start saying these kinds of things! A moment filled with wonder!
6. Mary is filled with Wonder as she considers these things and it causes her to ponder—to think about them with intensity and purpose. What would happen to us if we spent 49 hours pondering these truths?
- B. The theological wonders. Wonders we see when we study God's Word.
  1. Virgin birth! Mary had no husband. She was engaged to Joseph and she was a virgin! Yet she was pregnant. What is the significance of this? Answer: A man born without original/inherited sin. A perfect sinless sacrifice in days to come. Matthew 1:18
  2. God becoming man, by the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1:20, 23 Immanuel-God with us!
  3. He is Savior. Luke 2:11
  4. He is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11
  5. He shall save His people from their sin. Matthew 1:21 (Joseph)
  6. He is salvation. Luke 2:30 and He will save Gentiles! Luke 2:32 Simeon
  7. He is Jesus, "Yeshua!"; meaning the Lord is salvation!
  8. He is King of Jews and worthy to be worshiped- a man! Matthew 2:2, 11

### III. Purpose of Wonder is to Ponder

- A. When little children wonder it causes them to ponder. Wonder causes children to arrive at a destination. The Passover meal has wonder in it as a portion of the bread is hidden and children are allowed to search for it. The wonder ties the object of the mystery to its revelation. Wonder keeps us looking! God's creation is filled with wonder. His Word is filled with wonder.
- B. Mystery - In the NT mystery (Gk. *mysterion*), and revelation are often found together. The mystery is the object that proclaims the revelation. Note: each one of the natural manifestations that we see above proclaim a revelation about the purposes of God or about the baby. Mystery and revelation go together. Colossians 1:27 *"To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."* NKJV The purpose of wonder is often to cause us to search out the meaning to mystery. That is why Mary pondered.
- C. Proverbs 25:2 *"It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to*

*search out a matter*" NKJV God conceals a thing, and the hearts of kings ponder it to find its truth.

1. God conceals (creates mysteries) things and reveals just enough to keep us looking into a matter.
  2. He has created us to want to know the unknown—to ponder. That is the wisdom of our God. I Timothy 1:17 "*Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*" NKJV
  3. Some of you need to return to the simplicity of wonder and ponder once again this age-old story that you might find for yourself once again the freshness of the eternal truths hidden in the Christmas story.
- D. As Christians we are called to manage these truths. One way we do that is by not becoming so familiar with them that we forget the Wonder of the truths. 1 Cor. 4:1 "*Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.*" NKJV Gr. *oikonómos* - Household administration, treasurer, manager.
- E. The Christmas story is filled with wonder! Mysteries hidden in life events. Supernatural revelation conceals for the wise to search out.

### **Conclusion:**

- Wonder - a feeling of surprise mingled with admiration, caused by something beautiful, unexpected, unfamiliar, or inexplicable.
- This Christmas, ask God to always keep in you the heart of a child, one that stands in wonder of His mysteries. A heart that longs to stand in wonder at the wisdom of our God and to ponder the truths He has made manifest to us.
- Invitation to receive Christ.