

A Brief Khutba for Christmas

Friday Khutba by Dr Zahid Aziz, for Lahore Ahmadiyya UK, 24 December 2021

وَقُلْ أَمِنْتُ بِمَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ مِنْ كِتَابٍ وَأُمرتُ لِأَعْدِلَ بَيْنَكُمْ ط اللَّهُ رَبُّنَا وَرَبُّكُمْ ط نَنَّا أَعْمَالُنَا وَنَكُمْ
أَعْمَالِكُمْ ط لَا حُجَّةَ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ ط اللَّهُ يَجْمَعُ بَيْنَنَا وَإِلَيْهِ الْمَصِيرُ ط

I am delivering a brief *khutba* today. As it is Christmas tomorrow, I have recited words from a verse of the Quran, in which God tells our Holy Prophet Muhammad to address the followers of earlier scriptures, especially of the Bible. These are as follows:

“I believe in what Allah has revealed of the Book [i.e., in all revelation, mine and before mine], and I am commanded to do justice between you. **Allah is our Lord and your Lord. For us are our deeds, and for you your deeds. There is no contention [or dispute] between us and you.** Allah will gather us together, and to Him is the eventual coming.” — ch. 42, v. 15.

These words enable me to wish a happy and enjoyable Christmas to all Christians and pray that God enables them to adhere to the best of what Jesus has taught.

In this connection I may point out that the Quran mentions a conversation between God and Jesus, in which Jesus says to God about his followers:

“I said to them nothing but what You [God] commanded me: Serve God, my Lord and your Lord” (5:117).

This is borne out by the Gospels. They record the incident that the devil tempted Jesus with the offer of the glory of worldly and material things if only he agreed to worship the devil. But Jesus rejected this offer and responded: “it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ” (Matthew, 4:10; Luke 4:8). On another occasion, Jesus was asked the question: “Which is the first commandment of all?” He replied: “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with

all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Gospel of Mark, ch. 12, v. 29–31)

May God enable all of us, Christians or Muslims, to follow these teachings, ameen.

بَارِكْ اللَّهُ لَنَا وَكُم فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعْنَا وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِالآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، إِنَّهُ تَعَالَى جَوَادٌ كَرِيمٌ
مَلِكٌ بَرٌّ رَوْفٌ رَحِيمٌ-