

Celebrating Christmas or the Birth of Christ

Sunday, December 19, 2021

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John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hebrews 2:14-16 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born ... and his name shall be called Wonderful, ...

- I. For the true child of God every day is a time to celebrate the birth of Christ.
 - A. Of course, Christmas is a special time for Christians because they are pondering the wonder of wonders that God was made flesh and came to dwell among men.
 - B. It is also a time when our hearts are grieved because it is so obvious that the multitudes are acknowledging his birth but are celebrating something else altogether.
 - C. Christmas means something to the world that has forgotten God, while the birth of Christ means something totally different to those who are truly his children.
 - D. The story is told and shown in movies and Nativity scenes and church Christmas programs but it usually has an empty ring because the message of Christmas is centered around all the human drama and not the Christ-child himself.
 - E. Most people now, when given the chance to tell what Christmas means to them, generally say that Christmas is about, “family, gifts, food, Christmas tree, Santa Claus, excitement, etc.”
 - F. Even many who call themselves Christians are caught up in this “spirit of Christmas,”
 1. This “spirit” is about indulging in this fantasy created by popular music, myths of Santa Claus, reindeer, elves, and snowmen.
 2. You feed this “spirit” by starting to listen to “Christmas music” in October or November, and decorating all your surroundings with all the emblems of this fantasy.
 3. This “spirit” is about feeding false emotions that have nothing to do with the Christ that Christmas is supposed to be about.
 4. How can we separate from the world in sinful practices and evil, and then join hands with them in their celebration of covetousness and idolatry during this time of the year?
 - G. It is our heart that God wants, and He has told us that He is a jealous God, so how must it make him feel when we leave Him out and chase our emotional fantasies while pretending it is about Him?
- II. The birth of Christ is about the fact that God was made flesh.

Isaiah. 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Matthew 1:18-23 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Philippians 2:6-8 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

- A. The Creator and King of all things laid aside his divinity, departed from his pure and heavenly surroundings and stepped down into the ghetto of the universe.
- B. He came to the slums of the creation where sin had wrecked its destruction and polluted every creature.
- C. He left the praises of the angel hosts for the cursing and blasphemies of men.
- D. He left the wonderful pure fragrance of heaven for the stench of a world filled with pollution and death.
- E. He left perfect peace for the pain of hunger, thorns, fists, and nails.
- F. He left his throne of honor to be spit upon and shamed and lied about.
- G. He exercised the mind of God in the body of a human being (likeness of sinful flesh).
- H. He subjected himself to the feelings, the weakness, the pain, the suffering, of human flesh – so that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest – forever.

Hebrews 2:17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

III. The birth of Christ is about the fact that Jesus came to show us the Father.

John 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?

John 12:45 And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me.

Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God ...

Heb 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

- A. He came to manifest to us the heart of God.
- B. To reconcile man to himself God had to reveal himself in flesh so that man could know him in truth and what He is really like.

- C. This was necessary because man had developed a very wrong idea of God and his attitude toward man, his requirements for man, and his very heart toward man.

IV. The birth of Christ is about the fact that Jesus came to die that we might be saved.

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

1 Timothy 2:6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Hebrews 9:12-15 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

- A. Don't forget at Christmas while we are looking at a babe in a manger that that babe grew up and said some things.

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

John 4:13-14 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

- B. He became what we are that we might become what He is.
- C. The Son of God became the Son of man that we might become the sons of God.

John 1:10-12 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. ¹¹He came unto his own, and his own received him not. ¹²But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

- D. What the world calls "Easter" we call "Resurrection Sunday."
 - 1. We do that because we know that "Easter" was a pagan holiday that celebrated immorality and paganism.
 - 2. Therefore we try to put the focus on the fact that Jesus rose from the dead while all the world around us in hiding "Easter Eggs" and buying baby bunny rabbits.
- E. Christians therefore celebrate the birth of Christ – not Christmas, for that means something very different in this world that we live in now.
- F. Resist this "spirit" that tries to gain control of your emotions, or tries to make you feel like the "Grinch" because you do not feel those emotions that everyone else is doing their best to feel – it is not a spirit of God, because it is robbing God of the glory and praise for which He alone is worthy.