

## **The Glory of Christmas**

John 1; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 12-5-21

### **The Glory of Christmas**

*What makes Christmas special?*

The focus of John 1 is 'glory.' What is 'glory'?

- Something to be praised (like power and greatness or beauty and majesty).
- Something to be imitated (like kindness and humble service).
- Something that makes something or someone special (like a unique talent).

#### **1. The Glory of the Word (John 1:1-3)**

*The Word*

- The rational principle by which everything exists (Stoics)
- 'Reason' (inner thought or science)
- Speech or message
- The Word of the Lord that comes and acts (OT)
- The Wisdom of God
- The Personal Self-Expression of God

– Genesis 1:1-5; Hebrews 1:1-4

*The reason for Christmas is the reason for the universe.*

Jesus is 'God's Speech' or God's Word that reveals God and acts for God and orders all things to the glory of God. The 'Word' is both 'revelation' and 'reason.' If the reason for everything is Jesus, then could Christmas be any different? No. And yet, the reason for Christmas is especially centered upon the Reason for the universe! – Colossians 1:13-20; Revelation 4:9-11

#### **2. The Glory of the Light (John 1:4-18)**

*The Light*

- It could mean 'give inner illumination to every man'
- It could mean 'give an outward illumination for every man to see'
- 'light' is inner knowledge/conscience common to man
- 'light' is the knowledge of the gospel
- 'light' is the knowledge of God in every respect

Light here speaks of the revelation of God in general but also, especially, in the incarnation.

*How can we know what an invisible God looks like? – Philippians 2:5-7; Colossians 1:15; John 14:9*

*The glory of Christmas is the glory of grace.*

Jesus came that we might see God! Jesus came that we might see Grace!

*Can we see God or not? – Matthew 5:8; 1 Timothy 6:15-16*

Jesus came that we might see God (be in his presence and see him now and in glory) and that we might see that God is full of grace and truth.

*What kind of glory was it that they saw? The glory of Christmas is the beauty of God's grace (common and special grace) in a fallen world. It's the beauty of Christ (full of grace and truth)! (Exodus 33:18-19; 34:6-7) The glory of Christmas is the glory of God is the glory of goodness is the glory of grace! (John 2:11; 11:4; 12:23-26)*

### **3. The Glory of the Lamb (John 1:19-51)**

*The Lamb*

Not universalism (see verses 11-13)

He is sufficient for all

He saves people from every tribe and tongue and nation

He saves many more people than will be lost

He not only saves individuals but restores a fallen world

Genesis 22 (God will provide for himself a lamb)

Exodus 12 (slay the Passover lamb)

Isaiah 53 (lamb led to the slaughter)

Lamb most often sacrificed: represents the fulfillment of the whole OT sacrificial system

*The greatest purchase of Christmas is the salvation of the world. This 'purchase' didn't take place at Christmas, but it was the 'end' in view of Christmas! – Matthew 1:21; Revelation 5:8-9; Genesis 17:4; Proverbs 14:28; Revelation 7:9-10*

**Resting in Jesus: Receiving Him** – John 1:10-13

*What does God call us to do? Rest in Jesus for pardon and perfection.*

**Fixing Your Hope on God: Not the Christ** – John 1:19-20

*What does God call us to do? Fix your hope on God for help and happiness.*

**Pursuing Love: Full of Grace and Truth** – John 1:14, 30-51

*What does God call us to do? Pursue love in submission to God's Word and will.*