

DON'T MISS THE TRUTH OF CHRISTMAS!

John 1:1-14

Introduction

We are living in a time when some in the secular world seek to ignore and even to obliterate any of the Christian significance of Christmas!

For a number of years now, there has been a controversy over stores that seek to be politically correct in wishing folks "*Happy Holidays*" rather than "*Merry Christmas!*"

Public schools no longer have a *Christmas holiday*, it is now a *winter holiday*! Christmas displays in the public arena that depict ANY semblance of the real meaning of Christmas are now fought against vigorously by certain groups! And now, unfortunately we find that our leftist leaning courts are, all too often, ruling in their favor!

For those of us who continue to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas, the emphasis is on the humble manger scenes with the Babe in the manger, Joseph and Mary, the animals, the shepherds, (and even the out of place visit of the wise men.)

However, we should not lose the focus of the underlying truth of the Christmas scene! This truth involves the fact that God came to this earth in the form of human flesh! (John 1:14)

Jesus was more than just a baby lying in that manger in Bethlehem! He was and is the Lord God Almighty! The truth of Christmas is that the Creator of the universe, the very Son of God, left the portals of heaven to come to this earth in human form to fulfill the will of the Heavenly Father by dying on a cross for the salvation of mankind!

This morning I want us to consider this tremendous truth and make the truth of Christmas a reality in our personal lives.

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I. CHRISTMAS IS MORE ABOUT CHRIST'S DEITY THAN IT IS ABOUT HIS INFANCY!

The purpose of the humble birth of the Savior was not intended to veil the reality of God being born into the world, but rather to emphasize that God was moving to provide salvation for His people!

We See This Emphasis In Prophecy!

A. Consider The Prophecy In Isaiah 7:14!

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.

Three things to note about this prophecy:

1. The Lord Himself is giving a SIGN!
2. This sign involved a virgin birth!
3. The child born of the virgin would be called **IMMANUEL** which means "*God with us!*"

Matthew's Gospel records in Matthew 1:22-23, that what was revealed to Joseph by an angel to put his mind at ease in the matter of what to do about his pregnant, espoused fiancé or wife, was a fulfillment of this very Prophecy!

What did the angel reveal?

1. That which was conceived in Mary was of the Holy Ghost!
 - a) The Lord Himself did this!
 - b) Mary was still a virgin!
2. They were to call His name "*Jesus*", which means "*Savior*", because He would save His people from their sin! (Which only God could do so it meant that God was visiting man!)

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Matthew 1:22-23 22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 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.

B. Consider The Prophecy In Isaiah 9:6!

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, THE MIGHTY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, the Prince of Peace.

The prevalent attitudes of the world seeks to hide the true purpose of Christmas! Satan, the Father of lies, is behind this!

You'll hear people say:

"Oh Christmas is all us needing to have peace on earth and love everybody! Or, "Christmas is all about giving!"

Let's get this straight!

There will be NO PEACE ON EARTH until the Jesus comes back and sets up His earthly Kingdom and puts down all other rule and authority!

There can't even be peace in your own heart until you personally accept Jesus as your Savior and allow Him to be the Lord (that's the rule and authority) of your life!

Also, Christmas IS about giving...but not about US giving, but rather it is about God the Father giving His only begotten Son to the world to be the Savior of the World! (John 3:16)

SO, CHRISTMAS IS MORE ABOUT CHRIST'S DEITY THAN IT IS ABOUT HIS INFANCY!

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II. THE IDEA OF GOD BECOMING A MAN AS A BABE IN A MANGER IS CONTRARY TO MAN'S THINKING!

Worldly thinking can not conceive of the Almighty humbling Himself to become a man or condescending to becoming a tiny infant born in the surroundings that Jesus was born in!

Man's thinking is, *"That's not what god's do!"*

The problem with that thinking is that there are no "gods", just the ONE TRUE GOD manifested in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! And that has been His plan since before the world began!

Isaiah 44:6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

Isaiah 45:5 I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:

Isaiah 55:6-11

Worldly thinking can not comprehend how such a miraculous thing could happen! But it did!

Worldly thinking can not grasp the purpose of such an act (i.e. salvation) on the part of the Almighty!

Worldly thinking can not conceive of all that was involved in the incarnation!

Without forsaking or diminishing His divinity the LORD God Jehovah, Jesus, came into the world as an infant!

In His full humanity, the Lord Jesus Christ was cared for and reared as any child!

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In His full humanity, the Lord Jesus Christ experienced all the needs and emotions of every human!

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

In His full humanity, the Lord Jesus Christ kept the Law in its entirety!

In His fleshly life He kept all the commandments in spirit as well as in the letter!

In His sacrificial death He paid the supreme penalty demanded by the Law for those who violate any part of it!

In His deity, the Lord Jesus Christ was all wise and powerful!

The truth about His person—that is, HE IS THE GOD-MAN—is taught in the Bible and must be accepted by faith.

Man's inability to understand is because of his limited concept of God!!

III. IN HIS INCARNATION, JESUS VOLUNTARILY LAID ASIDE THE FULL APPLICATION AND INDEPENDENT USE OF HIS DIVINE ATTRIBUTES!

Philippians 2:5-8 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 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. He Voluntarily Subjected Himself To Do The Father's Will!

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John 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

John 6:38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

B. The Matter Of Jesus' Deity Is A Most Important Truth!

1. Various cults and skeptics have their own erroneous explanations as to who Jesus was or is! To some He is considered one of many gods!

To others He is sometimes considered a great teacher, prophet, high angel, etc., but not God in the flesh!

All such theories make Him less than Who He is!

2. The Bible very clearly teaches that Jesus is God! John 1:1-14 is absolute in its teaching!

Philippians 2:5-8 clearly teaches Christ's deity!

3. There is no doubt that Christ's enemies recognized that He was claiming to be God!

John 10:30-33 I and [my] Father are one. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

IV. UNDERSTAND THAT BIBLICAL SALVATION IS DEPENDENT UPON BOTH THE HUMANITY AND DEITY OF CHRIST!

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A. His Humanity Was Essential!

If He did not have a true humanity, then He could not have faced temptation for man!

If He did not have a true humanity He could not have been the last Adam!

1 Corinthians 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

B. His Deity Was Essential!

If Christ is not God, the revelation of Scripture is wrong!

If Christ was less than God He could not have paid for the sins of all mankind!

If Christ was less than God He could not have suffered an infinite death for all mankind!

Conclusion

The question that must be answered by all of us is this:

Who is Jesus Christ to you?

A. Is He the One who you believe died for your sins?

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

B. Is He the One you have trusted to pay your debt for sin?

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Matthew 16:13-18