

“A PRACTICAL FOCUS ON THE INCARNATION OF JESUS CHRIST”

MATTHEW 1:18-25

INTRO: Christmas is the time of year that brings out different emotions to different people. To many, it is a time of joy and happiness as they focus on what the season is all about. To some it is a time of sorrow and depression as they focus on former disappointing Christmas experiences. To secularists, those who do not know the Lord, it is just a time of parties and events that have no true connection to the biblical meaning of the season. To those who know and love the Lord Jesus Christ, Christmas is a time of worship and praise as they consider the true meaning of the season that results in great joy and peace in their lives. And so, we can say that there are many who celebrate Christmas around the world with various attitudes and actions, but, in truth, some really miss the spiritual significance of the season altogether. For those of us who know and love the Lord, Christmas can be a time of spiritual renewal and worship of our Great God if our focus is correct. (My home pastor, Philip Horne, always scheduled church revival services around the Christmas season to aid in the proper focus on Christ). **So today, with the intent of aiding us in having a biblical response to Christmas, let's take some time to focus on the incarnation of Jesus Christ from the biblical perspective, so as to enhance our appreciation of all that God has done for us through the great miracle of the human birth of Jesus Christ. Perhaps in doing so, true spiritual revival will come to our hearts today.**

I. THE INCARNATION OF JESUS CHRIST REVEALS THE SPIRITUAL NEED OF ALL HUMANITY

- A. All of Mankind is Born in Sin – Psalm 51:5; 53:1-3; Romans 3:23
- B. All of Mankind is Separated from God – Genesis 2:17; Romans 6:23

THE INCARNATION OF CHRIST THROUGH HIS VIRGIN BIRTH MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO PROVIDE A TRUE SACRIFICE FOR MANKINDS SIN.

II. THE INCARNATION OF JESUS CHRIST REVEALS THE LOVE OF GOD FOR ALL HUMANITY

- A. God's Love is Defined – John 3:16
 - The definition of God's love is that He **GAVE THE BEST HE COULD FOR US WHICH MOTIVATED THE INCARNATION OF CHRIST ON OUR BEHALF.**
- B. God's Love is Demonstrated – Romans 5:8
 - In demonstrating His love for us, God did not say **“YOU COME TO ME AND THEN I WILL MAKE A WAY FOR YOU TO BE SAVED.”** **GOD SO LOVED US IN THAT WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, HE MADE THE WAY OF REDEMPTION FOR US THROUGH THE WORK OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS WHICH BEGAN WITH THE INCARNATION OF CHRIST**
- C. God's Love is Directed – Ephesians 2:1-5
 - Even though all humanity is DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SINS, **GOD DIRECTED HIS LOVE TOWARD US THROUGH THE WORK OF JESUS CHRIST WHICH BECAME POSSIBLE THROUGH THE INCARNATION OF CHRIST.**

III. THE INCARNATION OF JESUS CHRIST REVEALS THE MESSAGE OF GOD FROM HEAVEN FOR ALL HUMANITY

- A. The Description of the Message – Luke 2:10a

The message of the incarnation is that of GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY.

 - 1. Good Tidings – the Good news of God's provision for mankind through the incarnation of Christ.
 - 2. Good Tidings of Great Joy – The good news of the incarnation of Christ brings great joy to those who appropriate the work of Christ on their behalf.
 - a. The Joy of Sins Forgiven
 - b. The Joy of Eternal Life
 - c. The Joy of our Heavenly Home
- B. The Direction of the Message – Luke 2:10b

The message of the incarnation is directed TO ALL MANKIND. JESUS BECAME A MAN TO GO TO THE CROSS TO DIE FOR THE WHOLE WORLD.

C. The Depiction of the Message – Luke 2:11

The message of the incarnation reveals the divine qualities of Jesus.

1. A Savior – Jesus is the ONLY Savior- John 14:6
2. Christ – Jesus is the PROMISED Messiah – Isaiah 9:6
3. Lord -Jesus Christ is THE SOVEREIGN GOD – John 10:27-30

The reality of the incarnation did not take away DIETY from Jesus. At His incarnation Jesus remained GOD IN THE FLESH to provide a complete salvation for all mankind. John 1:14; Philippians 2:5-8; 1 Timothy 3:16

IV. THE INCARNATION OF JESUS CHRIST REVEALS THE PROPER RESPONSE OF WORSHIPPING HIM FOR WHO HE IS FOR ALL HUMANITY

A. As Revealed by the Shepherds – Luke 2:15-20

1. The Shepherds Examined Jesus – Vs. 15
2. The Shepherds Expressed Jesus – Vss. 16-18
3. The Shepherds Exalted Jesus – Vs. 20

B. As Revealed by the Magi – Matthew 2:1-11

NOTE: The Magi were not kings, but rather magicians or astrologers from Persia who had a knowledge of the Hebrew scriptures and can be traced back Daniel chapter 5.

1. They Had the Desire to Worship Christ – Vs. 2
 - a. Such a desire motivated them to travel miles to find Christ and worship Him for Who He Is.
 - b. **WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO MOTIVATE US TO WORSHIP CHRIST?**
2. They had the Desire to Give to Christ – Vs. 11
 - a. They gave the best gifts they could that were worthy of who they saw Christ to be.
 - GOLD = To show the deity of Christ
 - FRANKINCENSE = To show the purity of Christ
 - MYRRH = To show the sacrifice of Christ
 - b. **ARE WE WILLING TO GIVE OUR BEST TO CHRIST FOR WHO HE IS?**

LESSON/APPLICATION

The Christmas Season is a great and joyful time for those of us who know the Lord. But it is a season that is NOT ABOUT US. IT IS A SEASON THAT IS ALL ABOUT WHAT GOD THE FATHER HAS DONE FOR US THROUGH HIS PRECIOUS SON JESUS CHRIST. God's great work of SALVATION was made possible through the INCARNATION OF JESUS CHRIST. Therefore, let's take the admonition of Philippians 2:9,10 and EXALT CHRIST IN OUR LIVES, even as God that Father has done in His eternal plan.