

## **APPRECIATING THE MIRACLE AND WONDER OF THE INCARNATION**

### **REVIEW:**

- Last week we looked at "why did Christ come."
- To glorify the Father, to fulfil the law, to seek and to save those who were lost, to save His people from their sin, to give abundant life, to set prisoners free, to render the devil powerless.

### **INTRO:**

- That we might gain an increase in our appreciation and wonder in the incarnation.
- The incarnation, the coming of God to humanity, the putting on Himself the robe of flesh.
- The only way to be just in forgiving man and justify Himself....
- See the Trinity at work in the incarnation. God the Father the Sender, sending God the Son through the incarnation, Who is begotten by God the Spirit.

### **1) THE STAGERING WONDER OF GOD DWELLING WITH MAN AS A MAN**

- **2 chron. 6:18** Would God dwell with men. He did much more.
- Jesus the son of God came, not as a condensed, or parcel God, not a weak or crippled God, but all God.
  - For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. Col.2:9.
- God omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent dwelling in an earthly clod.
- This is the wonder of the incarnation. God coming in the flesh. The eternal, infinite God making His abode in mortal, weak, failing flesh.
- John the apostle picks this up in his gospel in chapter one. **Jn. 1:1-4, 10-14.**

### **2) THE INCARNATION:**

- Incarnation: The act of clothing with flesh, to be invested with flesh.
- In the incarnation God the Son became all man while retaining Himself as all God. Not ½ man and ½ God, like some Greek mythological creature. Jesus all God-all man.
- The thought that God Himself and all that He is, would take upon Himself, to robe and cloth Himself with humanity is staggering. Beyond our comprehension.
- We cannot even comprehend God as God, much less God as the God/Man.
- What wondrous humiliation, **Phil. 2:5-7**

- **Ps. 113: 5, 6, Who *is* like the LORD our God, Who dwells on high, Who humbles Himself to behold *The things that are* in the heavens and in the earth?**
- **God had humbled Himself to dwell with men in the first testament.**
- **Taking up temporary, transient residence in a bush, a cloud or a fiery pillar or a tent or even an elaborate temple, whether Solomon's or Herod's, but never, never did He become a tent, or a temple, He never put those things on.**
- **But this time he comes to man in human flesh, a body prepared for Him.**
- **Scriptures affirm, God became "the Man Christ Jesus."**
  - **1 Tim. 2:5; For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,**
- **It would have been somewhat easier for us to understand or accept if He had taken the nature of a cherub, or a seraph, or an angel, but a man?**
  - **Ps. 8:4, 5; what is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? <sup>5</sup> For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. (Jesus, now having a body, has elevated our creation forever) We shall be like Him not the angels.**
- **Again the staggering fact is that not only did Jesus come in human flesh, He came in the likeness of "sinful flesh."**
  - **8:3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh**
  - **All flesh had become fallen, sinful, and so it bore the marks, the effects and misery of sin.**
- **Christ who eternally existed, co- equal with Father and Spirit, who came in perfect pleasing purity and blazing holiness, now taking up sinful flesh. SELAH.**
- **He carried in His body the whole realm of human infirmity, hunger, thirst, weariness, weakness, pain, aging and decay.**
- **In the incarnation remember that the creature whose nature Christ took on was a being who had sinned against Him.**
- **It was not a race which had never rebelled against Him or had not fallen.**
- **No human eye would see in Him His Divinity, for He was despised, rejected, just a lowly carpenters son, born in sin.**
- **No one saw the Creator of the world, the Prince of the kings of the earth, the Lord of lords, for He was not esteemed, and the world knew Him not.**
- **Christ the Creator of the world taking up His residence and becoming a creature. The Ancient of days now an infant of days.**

- **The Creator becomes the created. PS. 2:7**, You *are* My Son, Today I have begotten You
- **This is foundational in church doctrine and Christian life.**
  - **1 Tim. 3:16**

### **3) THE IRONY OF JESUS AND THE EARTHLY TEMPLE:**

- **We now understand Jesus's lack of awe with Herod's temple.**
  - **Mk. 13:1, 2**; Then as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings *are here!*" <sup>2</sup> And Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not *one* stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down." Math. 24, Lk, 21.
- **The temple the Jewish nation worship and adored, the worship and adoration which belonged to the true Temple of God, Christ Jesus.**
- **See God coming to Solomon's temple. 2 Chron. 7**
- **Now he stands in the shadow of this temple built with human hands, the temple made of cold lifeless materials, there He stands, Immanuel, God with us,**
  - **And in this One dwells all the fullness of God bodily. (Col. 2:9)**
- **Can we begin to sense the heart ache of Jesus as He stood there with His disciples and the disciples reveling in the beauty of the temple. A symbol of their trust and security and religion.**
- **A temple that God never dwelt in, and there beside them is God come in the flesh, the true temple of God, Divinity veiled in flesh.**
- **Jn. 14:1-5, 10-14**

### **CONCLUSION:**

- **If Christ stooped so low in becoming a man to save us, is this not a pattern for His church, and does not the same Spirit of Christ dwell in us.**
- **Jn. 13:14**, If I then, *your* Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.
- **Are we not challenged in all this to manifest the same spirit of service, respect and honor to one another?**
- **Should Christ stoop to bless and me not?**
- **Bernard of Clairvaux; "it is intolerable for a worm to swell with pride after it had seen majesty emptying itself, to see one so infinitely above us to stoop so far beneath us."**
- **Let us meditate on this wonder, the condescension of God becoming a man, coming in the likeness of sinful flesh to redeem man.**
- **All God and All man, crucified for us and now forever there sits on the throne in heaven "the MAN CHIST JESUS!"**