

Text: “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given” (Isa. 9:6).

Introduction

God’s greatest gift to people is often overlooked at Christmastime. Today we concentrate our attention on that gift foretold by the prophets: God’s only begotten Son (Isa. 9:6).

It is the tragedy of tragedies that so few have properly related themselves to the Christ who was born in Bethlehem and laid in a manger. The wise men came asking, “Where is he that is born King of the Jews?” (Matt. 2:2).

We should be asking: “Who is he?” and “What do you think of the Christ?”

Is Jesus Christ merely a mythical or legendary figure? Is he simply the most notable figure on the pages of history? His birthday gave the world a new era, dividing the past from the future at a focal point. His majesty has given the world its most immortal paintings. His love has inspired the world’s masterpieces of art, sculpture, and music. His influence has inspired earth’s greatest philanthropies. More books have been written about him than have been written about all of the kings who have ruled from earthly thrones.

Who is this Son whom God has given?

I. God has given unto us a supernatural Son.

Jesus was supernaturally conceived and born of the Virgin Mary.

We read in the Gospels that the Angel appeared to Mary

LUKE 1:30-35 *But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"*

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

MT 1:18 *This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.*

Christianity is built and based on a supernatural Christ.

Christianity is more than a creed or code; it is a fellowship with a risen and living Christ. Those who reject the virgin birth and explain away Christ’s miracles and deny his resurrection have only a pale, weak, anemic human Christ who has no power with which to save a sinful race.

With so many Messianic prophecies, that’s prophecies concerning the coming of Christ as the Messiah that we remember at Christmas time, all fulfilled by the birth of Jesus, why should we doubt the validity of the virgin birth. For as Luke goes on to say in Luke 1: 37 - **For nothing is impossible with God.**"

II. God has given unto us a sinless Son.

Christ was **“in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Heb. 4:15).**

Christ refrained from all willful transgression.

Jesus could not have been the Messiah to the Jews and the Saviour of all mankind if He had sinned. If he had given in to Satan in the wilderness. He was sinless. Jesus is God in Human form and therefore was the very essence of personal purity.

The verdict of Pilate, the Roman governor, was **“I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him.”** (Luke 23:14).

At Jesus' baptism, God spoke from heaven, expressing the divine approval of Christ Matt. 3:17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

He made a second expression of approval at the transfiguration (Matt. 17:5).

The resurrection of Christ was a public demonstration of the divine acceptance of his substitutionary death on the cross.

III. God has given us a Son who suffered as our substitute.

As much as we may enjoy this time of celebration where we look upon Jesus' miraculous birth, with the singing and rejoicing of the heavenly host, the no room at the inn and the stable bare, we cannot separate this event from the reason why he came – his death on a cross.

- A. *The prophet Isaiah foretold the substitutionary death of the Suffering Servant of God (Isa. 53:5–6).*
- B. *The angel told Joseph that Mary's unborn child was divine and that he would be the Savior of his people (Matt. 1:21).*
- C. *When John the Baptist introduced Jesus to his disciples, he called him the one who would bear the sin of the world (John 1:29).*
- D. *Jesus defined his objective for coming into the world in terms of giving his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).*
- E. *Jesus described himself as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life voluntarily for his sheep (John 10:11).*
- F. *Paul declared that while we were still rebel sinners against God, God loved us and gave his Son to die for us (Rom. 5:6).*
- G. *The Sinless One, by a divine decree, was made to be sin for us that he might suffer in our place, saving us from the penalty of sin (2 Cor. 5:21).*
- H. *He who was rich beyond imagination became a pauper that we, through his poverty, might be made indescribably rich (2 Cor. 8:9).*
- I. *God's greatest gift, his sinless Son, suffered for us sinners that he might return us to God (1 Peter 3:18).*

18-22 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand--with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

IV. God has given us a Son who is an all-sufficient Savior.

The child that we picture in our minds that was visited by the wise men, was to be the savior of the world. He came quietly by human standards with only a few chosen shepherds to hand to welcome him. The rest of the world continued on, unaware of the presence of God.

It is this all-sufficient Saviour who:

- A. *He takes care of the past by the pardon of every sin and the forgiveness of every transgression.*
There is no sin so big that His arm cannot save, there is no one so bad to be exempt.
- B. *He takes care of the present by his abiding presence.*
 - 1. He is the mind of God speaking out to people.
 - 2. He is the voice of God calling out to people.
 - 3. He is the heart of God throbbing out to people.
 - 4. He is the hand of God reaching out to people.
 - 5. He is the Savior who can meet the deepest needs of the soul.
- C. *He takes care of the future by providing a home at the end of the journey.*

Before He returned to heaven he told his disciples

JOHN 14:2-3 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Conclusion

We toil at this time of year to make sure we have gifts to give our families and friends, quite often spending large amounts of money that we get into debt. Wanting to make sure that our children have the very latest techno games to show off to their friends.

Why do we do that? Is it to see the smile on their faces, or the surprised look?

The presents that we receive, do they make us happy? Are they what we wanted?

A week after Christmas and its all over, some want to get the tree and the tinsel down ready for a new year, some, having put on a few pounds look to joining the Gym – is it worth it? Have we lost the real meaning of it all?

The real gift that everyone needs was given, quite simply, no fuss, 2000 years ago.

He is a royal gift, a Holy gift, an all-sufficient gift – His name is Jesus.

Have you received the royal Guest into your heart? It is time to let him in. Do not ignore him or shut him out. Accept God's greatest gift by receiving his Son as the Lord of your heart and life.

LUKE 2:10-11 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

Amen!