

## The Person of Christ    Christmas 2013

### The Person of Christ: Introduction

- We may not know the exact day, but as it turns out the exact day doesn't really matter.
- The fact that Jesus Christ was born is what matters – much more than exactly when.
- The fact of His birth is what changed the course of history.
  
- God the Son, the Second Person of the Trinity, having taken upon Himself a humanity such as ours, began a living, breathing existence among us – as one of us.
- This happened in a real place, Bethlehem, at an actual historical time, in the days of the Roman Empire.
- The histories of Heaven and Earth, running almost parallel to one another since Day One, would now forever be firmly connected.
  
- God the Son walked the earth and shared our struggles.
- A real man, Jesus Christ, one of our own kind, will reign over the entire universe forever because He is also truly God.
- He invites us to reign with him.

### The Christmas Story from Matthew

- Read Matthew 1:18 – 2:23.
  
- 1:21    To be saved from our sins goes farther than from their penalty. Christ offers more than a selfish escape from hell.
- He offers us release from sin's power – and ultimately from the presence of sin.
- The saints in heaven lead a fully sinless existence.
  
- 1:23    *Immanuel* means "God with us."
- The Bible reveals Christ as one unique Person having two natures – full deity and full humanity.

## Reflections on the Person of Christ

### A few inferior ideas:

- All of the following ideas have names.
  - They were views considered by some at an early point in church history.
  - They were rejected by the early church on the way to the formulation of the most accurate Christian belief.
1. Jesus was less than God.
  2. Jesus had only a human body, but a divine spirit. In other words, his human nature was incomplete.
  3. Jesus Christ is actually two distinct “persons” within one human body, that remain separate. This sounds more like a psychiatric disorder than good theology.
  4. Christ had only one nature, neither precisely divine nor human, but rather a sort of hybrid.

### Christ is fully human, therefore:

1. He could be sinless and obedient in precisely the way that we are not – rather than as God alone or as an angel.
2. He becomes the perfect sacrifice for us.
3. He becomes the perfect Mediator for us.
4. He becomes a perfect example for us.
5. We can enjoy perfect fellowship with him forever.

### Christ is fully God, therefore:

1. His sacrifice is sufficient not for the sins of one man only, but for all. It has infinite worth.
  2. His resurrection power is his own.
  3. He is fully capable of forgiving us and giving eternal life.
  4. He is worthy of our obedience.
  5. He is worthy of our worship.
- Reflections on the Person of Christ

### Summary:

- Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man in one Person, and will remain so forever. His deity and humanity are united in the one Person of Christ.
- The theologian Wayne Grudem put it like this:
  - *“The fact that the infinite, omnipotent, eternal Son of God could become man and join himself to a human nature forever, so that infinite God became one person with finite man, will remain for eternity the most profound miracle and the most profound mystery in all the universe.”*

### **The Christmas (& Easter) Story from Paul**

- Read Philippians 2:5-11.

### **Our Response**

- Think about the absolute perfection involved in this means of securing your salvation – that God the Son would take a human nature for himself.
- Take time to truly consider the wonder of God humbling himself to become man and die on your behalf.
- Consider the love expressed by God in his dealings with you – especially coming to this earth that you might be saved from the power and punishment of sin that you actually deserved.
- Think about the fact that you now worship and serve Jesus Christ the God-Man, who has tasted death and risen from the grave to live forever more.
- If we have never done so, we should receive Christ's offer of salvation now, while we still have the time to choose our allegiance.
- We should worship him as Lord and God.
- We should desire to see his name glorified.
- We should give him a heart of complete loyalty and obedience rather than the divided heart that we all too frequently offer.
- We should love him who sacrificed so much on our behalf with all of our heart and mind and soul and strength – in other words with every ounce of everything that we are or that we have.
- Finally, consider that when we are done loving him with as much love as we can ever possibly have within us, He will still be worthy of infinitely more love than we can ever give.
- There is no end – and never can or will be an end – to the infinite, excellent worth of the Person of Jesus Christ.