

THE CHRISTOLOGY OF CHRISTMAS

John 1:1-2, 14

INTRO: Turn your Bibles, or turn them on, to the Gospel of John, chapter 1. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and JOHN, the fourth book of the NT. John chapter 1.

Today, I want to preach on THE CHRISTOLOGY OF CHRISTMAS. Christology is the study of the doctrines of Jesus Christ. Who was Jesus? That's the simple question that Christology answers. In this day that we live, and in a culture that has so commercialized Christmas, and has, to a large degree, tried to remove Christ from this sacred celebration that the church and Christians hold so dear, it's more important now, than maybe ever before, that we know who Jesus really is.

As you very well know, there are a lot of conflicting opinions as to who Jesus was, or is. What I want to do is share with you the truth according to scripture. If we must know anything, we must know who Jesus is! And we must know, not simply what our opinion of Jesus is, but who Scripture reveals Him to be. Some of you learned these truths long ago, and some of you are just beginning to learn these things and figure out why they are important. Either way, this Christmas season is the perfect time to sure up your Christology. It's time to know who Jesus really is.

And there is perhaps no better place to start than in the Gospel of John. According to the early church father, Irenaeus (who was a disciple of Polycarp, who in turn was a disciple of the Apostle John), this gospel was written to combat various heresies that were developing which denied either the full humanity or full deity of Jesus. It was written, in essence, to correctly inform us of who Jesus actually is. So today, we, like those who first read these words at the very end of the first century AD, will look to John for a clear portrait of the authentic Christ.

Read with me...

John 1:1-2, 14 *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 14 The Word (then) became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the only begotten Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

There are three things in verse 14, just three that I have time for, that I want to point out to you, that speaks to who Jesus is and what He did on our behalf. NOTICE...

J) JESUS CAME: v 14a *"The Word became flesh..."* Now, in our book study on John, that we started before the pandemic, we looked in depth at the Greek word, Logos, which is translated "Word" here in John's Gospel. And the meaning of it is very important. I encourage you to take time to study it. BUT today, I want to look at the word, "BECAME".

One of the great truths of Scripture is that Jesus CAME to Earth as a baby. He was born of a virgin. He lived and breathed, worked and ministered, for some 33 years in this world. Jesus did come, that is true. But what is also true, is that He did more than just come, He BECAME! He became something He was not before hand, in order that we might become something we could not on our own! WOW! HE CAME AND BECAME FLESH!

God's Holy Word teaches us that Jesus is GOD IN THE FLESH! In the church we say He is God incarnate (with flesh). God sent His one and only Son to be the Savior of the world.

I) JESUS CAME: v 14a **CONTINUED** What does that mean to you? The fact that Jesus left Heaven and the adoration of angels, and that He left His Father, to COME to earth, and BECOME a baby that would grow into a man that would eventually die on the cross of Calvary to pay the debt of sin that mankind would accumulate throughout time, to save you and me, and all who would believe, from Hell and eternal separation from God. What does that mean to you?

JESUS CAME TO SHOW US WHO GOD IS! In John 14:9, Jesus said, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father...” v 14, here, in chapter 1, goes on to say, “We have seen His glory, the glory of the only begotten Son from the Father...”

1 John 1:1-4 “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our own eyes, which we have gazed upon and touched with our own hands—this is the Word of life. 2 And this is the life that was revealed; we have seen it and testified to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And this fellowship of ours is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.”

JESUS CAME and BECAME FLESH so that we might SEE GOD, and KNOW GOD, and that we might BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD! Notice...

II) JESUS CARES: v 14b “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the only begotten Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

It's that phrase, “and dwelt among us.” that I want to look at for a moment. One might think that John could have just said that, “*The Word lived among us*”, but instead the Holy Spirit led him to use the unusual Greek word, Skēnōo, which means specifically to “*dwelt in a tent*”, or “*to pitch a tent*”. The word speaks to the fact that Jesus left a permanent HOME, His home, and came and pitched a tent among us for a time, to do something for us, to help us, to save us out of OUR PLACE of distress! HE CAME TO US because HE CARES FOR US!

Ray Pritchard In the Bible three kinds of people lived in tents—shepherds, sojourners, and soldiers. They lived in tents because they never stayed in one place very long. Jesus lived in the “tent” of his humanity for 33 years on the earth because he too was a shepherd, a sojourner, and a soldier. He came to be the Good Shepherd, he came as a visitor from heaven, and he came as the Captain of our Salvation to defeat the devil once and for all. Jesus was God's rescue mission to the human race. He came on a mission from God. When his mission was over, he went back to heaven. While he was here, he pitched his tent among us. When his time was up, he took his tent of human flesh and rejoined his Father in heaven.

How much would Jesus have to care, to come to this world to save us from ourselves?

C.S. Lewis puts this into perspective Lying at your feet is your dog. Imagine, for the moment, that your dog (and every dog) is in deep distress. Some of us love dogs very much. If it would help all the dogs in the world, would you be willing to become a dog? Would you put down your human nature, leave your loved ones, your job, your hobbies, your art and literature and music, and choose instead of the intimate communion with your beloved, the poor substitute of looking into your beloved's face and wagging your tail?

I) JESUS CAME: v 14a

II) JESUS CARES: v 14b CONTINUED When Jesus came to earth, He took a giant step down! But He did it in order to save us.

Hebrews 2:9 *“But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.”*

Romans 5:8 *“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* JESUS CAME and died for us, for our sins.

So we see that JESUS CAME, and that JESUS CARES. No wonder we celebrate Christmas! We should celebrate the COMING of a CARING Savior. Christmas is more than just gifts and time spent with family and friends. CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT JESUS!

Notice lastly...

III) JESUS IS COMMENDABLE: v 14c *“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the only begotten Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

Commendable means: Worthy of Praise. Jesus is worthy of praise!

The Christian celebration of Christmas is an appropriate response to the season. THE WORLD IS MISSING IT! They have tried to eliminate the very reason why Christmas is celebrated, why it exist! Xing Christ out of Christmas nullifies any reason to party, any reason to rejoice. Listen to the narrative in the Gospel of Luke.

Luke 2:8-14 *“Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”*

I LOVE THAT! After Jesus is announced, all of Heaven begins to rejoice. CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT JESUS!

CONCLUSION: Today I have talked to you about the CHRISTOLOGY OF CHRISTMAS; who Jesus is in regards to Christmas. I hope that your heart has been brought back to that place of wonder when as a child you would sit and listen to the reading of the Christmas story in church and your heart would rejoice at the little baby who came to save the world. Do you still love that story? Do you still love that baby, turned man, turned Savior, who died for your sins?