

CHRISTMAS: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT?

John 3:16, 1 Timothy 3:16

When you hear the word Christmas spoken...what do you think of? Some would say presents, or carols, or Christmas trees and decorations. Some might answer by saying snow, or parties, or friends and family, or no school, or cards, candy, mistletoe, even movies. But what if we can dismiss the thoughts of a white Christmas, of Ebenezer Scrooge, of George Bailey, and Tiny Tim, we will find a wonderful theology that defines Christmas for real. A truth that is life changing, life giving, and never ending.

Beyond question, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory. 1 Timothy 3:16 NASB

And great and important and weighty, we confess, is the hidden truth (the mystic secret) of godliness. He [God] was made visible in human flesh, justified and vindicated in the [Holy] Spirit, was seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, [and] taken up in glory. 1 Timothy 3:15 AMPC

- ***The Christmas message is really quite simple!***
 - ***God came to earth in the form of a man.***
 - ***Simply stated...either He came, or He didn't come...***
 - ***Some religious teachers in New Testament times just could not accept the concept that Jesus was actually God in a human body.***
 - ***They thought and they taught that 'matter' was evil, and human flesh is matter, so God could not come in the flesh because He could not be in contact with anything evil.***
 - ***To say that God came to earth in a human body simply was not reasonable, or so they said.***
 - ***Obviously, these are not correct conclusions, and all matter is not evil, but the attempt to turn the incarnation into a simple matter of scientific reason was evil.***
 - ***The secret, the mystery of godliness is not a function of reason. This is a faith issue, a moral spiritual issue.***
 - ***It is interesting to me that the Bible says that unbelief is a sin...this would not be so if belief is only a judgement or verdict, completely based on evidence or reason.***
 - ***There is nothing unreasonable about the message of Christmas, but its appeal is not chiefly to reason.***

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- ***At a real time, in a real place, the real God became a real human and lived among men on the earth.***
- ***Consequently, our response to Jesus coming as the God-man, the man-God is not just a tradition of religious history, it is the reality of a divine person that we can and must come to know.***

¹⁴ Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. ¹⁶ For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted. Hebrews 2:14-18 NASB

- ***The 'mystery' of godliness...the incarnation.***

Look at what others have said:

"Remember, Jesus was not a deified man, neither was He a humanized God. He was perfectly God and at the same time perfectly man." C.H. Spurgeon

"Rejoice that the immortal God is born, so that mortal man may live in the eternity". John Huss

"The central miracle asserted by Christians is the incarnation. They say that God became man." C.S. Lewis

"He that made man was made man." C.H. Spurgeon

"Let earth and heaven combine, angels and men agree, to praise in songs divine, the incarnate deity, our God contracted to a span, incomprehensibly made man." C. Wesley

"He was created of a mother that He created. He was carried by hands that He formed. He cried in the manger in wordless in fancy. He, the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute." Augustine

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"Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world." C.S. Lewis

"The Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child. The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as this truth of the incarnation." J.I. Packer

"Christmas celebrates the awesome and amazing fact that God is grander, wiser, and more mysterious than we could have ever imagined." Dan Schaeffer

"Jesus was God and man in one person, that God and man might be

⁸ But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; ¹³ for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." Romans 10:8-13

happy together again. George Whitefield

"Jesus means something to our world because a mighty spiritual force streams forth from Him and flows through our being also. This fact can neither be shaken nor confirmed by any historical discovery. It is the solid foundation of Christianity." Albert Schweitzer

"We are told that Christ was killed for us, that His death has washed out our sins, and that by dying, He disabled death itself. That is the formula. That is Christianity. That is what has to be believed. C.S. Lewis

Merry Christmas!