

God's Son is the Saviour of the World

I John 4:14-15, Christmas Day

December 25, 2006

Beloved of the Lord....It was in the evening, when the baby Jesus was born. Though Joseph and Mary had expected to find lodging for the night, "there was no room for them in the inn." This is quite sad because we are told that Mary was "great with child". To all who saw her, it was evident that she was about to have her baby. Moreover this was Mary's first child. She had never experienced child-birth, and she was still yet a virgin. Though she carried God's own Son, she must have experienced great fear and nervousness. This is probably also true of Joseph. These two were about to be parents of the greatest Child ever born, God's own Son, whom they would name Jesus. He would be named Jesus, for He would save His people from their sins. Both Mary and Joseph were sinners, just like you and me. They had the same struggles you and I have. But they also had faith. And as we just heard in our text, "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him." Joseph and Mary were confessors of the Christ. And that same Christ whom they would soon see in the flesh by the spirit even now lived in their own hearts by faith. They trusted in this Christ. And so now on this very quiet and special night, though no one will give them shelter, though there is no room for them in the inn, Joseph and Mary put all their trust in God. They found a stable or cave where animals were kept. Mary would have her first baby here in the straw among the animals. This is where Jesus, God's own Son, would be born.

"She brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger." God's own Son Jesus Christ came into this world the same way as you and me. There was no fanfare or hoopla....no red carpet rolled out before Him. It was the humblest of births. There was no crib, but only a feeding trough for Mary to place her newborn Son.

Moreover the very Son of God was wrapped in scraps of clothing, "swaddling clothes". This shows that Joseph and Mary were poor. God in the flesh would be the child of poor parents. This lowly birth among the animals, this lowly birth to poor parents, was God's choice. It was the way and manner by which God chose to be born into this sinful world. And so God became a visible Man on that first and holy silent night. Jesus was born having "all the fullness of the Godhead" bodily, yet Jesus was fully a human being, except without sin. The angels joyfully announced this birth to the shepherds, and the shepherds came to see the fulfillment of God's promises to all mankind. "The shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph. Jesus the Babe was lying in a manger.

I. The world needed to be saved. Why did this happen? Why did God choose such a humble birth? Why did He come? The Bible says, "The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world." Jesus Christ was born in order to rescue the whole world from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Satan himself had a terrible grasp on mankind. The whole world was under his power by way of sin. To this day, all men are born in sin and therefore naturally under God's wrath. Sin utterly dominates and rules the soul. Sin rules the sinner. Sin makes us enemies with God. Sin makes man spiritually blind and spiritually dead. Sin blinds man so that the very thoughts of his heart are only evil continually. It is sin that causes us to have evil thoughts toward God. Sin makes us accuse God of injustice, or we think God is a liar and deceiver, or that He doesn't give us a fair shake, or that His ways are unequal. Sin makes us think that God is the source of all our problems when the real source of our problems is our own sin and shame. Sin blinds us.

Consider this....there are some children that are born into this world blind. As they grow up

and learn to speak, sooner or later someone has to explain to them that they are not like other people, for they cannot see, they are blind. Now consider that all men born into this world are spiritually blind. Sin has blinded the whole world so that mankind from birth does not know the True God. Sin has blinded man to the point that he naturally cannot comprehend or understand God's grace.

But God in mercy comes to us and tells us that we are blind. His law condemns our sinful and proud hearts. God tells us in the Bible that all men are sinners, worthy of only death and damnation. The Word of God describes our own sinful nature in such a way that we know what He says to be true. Our conscience testifies to the truth of His Word. And so by way of the law, it dawns upon us that we are lost and condemned creatures. It dawns upon us that sin has blinded us. It dawns upon us that we are under Satan's power by way of sin. It dawns upon us that presently we sit in darkness.

II. God's own Son has saved the world. But God in His mercy does not leave us lost and condemned. He does not let the brokenhearted sit in their darkness and misery. God comes to the sinner with His love. He tells us of Jesus. The Bible says, "The Father sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world." Now it dawns upon us just who this Son of God is! He is the Savior of the world! He is the Savior of all men! He is the Savior of all who sit in darkness! And so the Gospel message of forgiveness through Christ, becomes the dawn of a new day. The night is over, a new day has begun. When Jesus was born into this world, remember that it was dark. That is a good reminder for us that the world by sin sits in darkness. But Jesus did not come bringing darkness with Him. Jesus brought the Light, for Jesus is the Light. Jesus says, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. " His birth into this world of darkness, was the first Gospel ray of sunlight breaking forth upon a new day giving

life. Jesus came to take away the scales of unbelief from our eyes, that we might see and know that God is gracious and forgiving, through the Lord Jesus Christ! There is life everlasting through Christ! His divine love, grace, and mercy is even now shining upon our hearts. In Acts 26:18 Jesus tells us that He came "To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."

Dear sinner, if in your heart you long to be forgiven of your sins, do not fear.....for that is why Christ came. His birth was the dawn of a new day for this world. "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." 2 Cor. 4:6 Wherever there is faith in the heart, there is also Christ, God's own Son, that Babe of Bethlehem, the Savior of the world, your Savior and mine. The Bible says, "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God." It was God who dwelled and lived in the hearts of Joseph and Mary by faith. It was God who dwelled and lived in the hearts of all the saints who awaited the birth of the world's Savior. It is God who still dwells and lives in the hearts of all His children today who trust in His almighty grace and mercy. "Where sin abounds, God's grace does much more abound." Therefore let us thank and praise God this day, and every day, that the Light of His Son has shined upon our hearts. "By grace are ye saved through faith." His grace is upon you even now, and your Savior has atoned for all your sins. May His light which lives within you, shine brightly this Christmas Day, and every day hereafter. Amen.