

The New Testament Church
The Incarnation: Why Christ must be the Center of Christmas
John 1:14 - December 17, 2023
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And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth – John 1:14

I Christ must be kept in Christmas – *if there is no Christ, Christmas is meaningless*

A. Christmas means *Christ sent*.

1. The word “mass” is derived from the Latin *missa*, meaning “to send”
2. After hearing about Christ, the congregation is sent out to serve/witness
3. Even Michaelmas – meaning “Michael sent” for a late September birth
4. Consider *Noel* – the French word “to be born”; or “good news”

II The Divine dilemma – *if there is no sin, then there is no need for Christmas*

A. Men and women are fallen creatures, unable to get to God – Genesis 3

1. Without intervention, the human race would self-destruct from within
2. The law of death following sin, must be satisfied – spiritual/physical death
3. God is perfect, and cannot fellowship with sin, man cannot save himself

B. How could a perfect God redeem or save sinful human beings?

1. Either God would let mankind self-destruct and then start over... or
2. God could violate His own nature and accept sinful mankind into His presence

III The Divine Solution – *Christmas is the Incarnation; God’s solution for our Dilemma*

A. The Word became flesh

1. God would become a man, yet retain being God
2. Only a God-man could possibly satisfy both the Law and our sin condition
3. *People manipulate the Christmas story that often tarnishes the truth*

B. The “only begotten” of God the Father

1. The Greek word here is *monogenesis* or *monogenes*
2. Prefix “only” and suffix “generated” – or begotten – not created
3. He is the one and only begotten – not created – just born – Jn. 1:18; 3:16,18

C. Salvation through regeneration

1. God’s solution for us is to be saved through regeneration
2. Regeneration is the Greek *palingenesia* – to “beget again”

Titus 3:5; *not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit*

3. We are “born again” by the Spirit of God, cleansed of our sin – a work of grace!
4. Someone once said; “*A thousand times in history has a baby become a king. but only once has a King become a baby!*”
5. While you should enjoy all the benefits of the season, *keep Christ in Christmas!*