

What Christ's Birth Means To Us

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

I. Introductory Remarks.

As we prepare to celebrate the Birth of Christ I would like to take a few moments to reflect on the special meaning His birth has for each one of us.

In the early 19th century, a war-weary world was anxiously watching the march of Napoleon. All the while babies were being born. In 1809, midway between the battles of Trafalgar and Waterloo, William E. Gladstone was born in Liverpool; Alfred, Lord Tennyson in Summersby, England; Oliver Wendell Holmes in Boston; Felix Mendelssohn in Hamburg, Germany; and Abraham Lincoln in Hodgenville, Kentucky. People's minds were occupied with battles, not babies. yet almost two centuries later, is there the slightest doubt about the greater contribution to history - those battles or those babies?

So it was with the birth of Jesus. The Bethlehem crowds had no inkling that the infinite Son of God was asleep in their little town. Only a few shepherds came to see Him, and they left glorifying God.

II. What the Birth of Christ Represents To Us.

1. His Birth Gives Us Faith To Believe In God.

Many prophets and others in the Old Testament prophesied the Birth of Christ and many other things concerning Christ the Messiah and His Church.

Isaiah 7:14 *"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.*

What special meaning does the fact that the prophecies concerning the birth of Christ being fulfilled have for our lives today?

It gives us faith to believe that what God has written in His word is true. It helps us to believe in the reality of the birth of Jesus Christ and all that comes with it.

The prophets of the Old Testament prophesied many wonderful and awesome things including God's destiny and purpose for the church today as well as the eternal kingdom. If what they said about the birth of Christ came to pass, then that which has been prophesied for today and the future will also come to pass. This gives us faith to believe in all that God has for us.

2. His Birth Meant Joy Coming Into The World.

Much joy was brought into the world as a result of the birth of Christ and this joy has now entered into each one of our lives as a result of His coming into our lives.

Luke 1:14 *"And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.*

John 15:11 *"These things I have spoken to you, that My [joy] may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.*

Acts 2:28 *You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of [joy] in Your presence.'*

3. The Birth Of Jesus Meant That A Savior Was Provided.

Mark 10:45 *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*

Someone once received a Christmas card that had a special significance. It went something like this:

"If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist. But since our greatest need was forgiveness, God sent us a Savior."

4. His Birth Provided Hope of Eternal Life And a Way For us to Enter Heaven.

John 14:2 *"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

Another striking Christmas card was once published with the title "If Christ Had Not Come". It was founded upon our Saviour's words "If I had not come." The card represented a pastor's falling into a short sleep in his study on Christmas morning and dreaming of a world into which Jesus had never come.

In his dream he found himself looking through his home, but there were no little stockings in the chimney corner, no Christmas bells or wreaths of holly, and no Christ to comfort, gladden and save. He walked out to the street, but there was no church with its spire pointing to heaven. He came back and sat down in his library, but every book about the Savior had disappeared.

The doorbell rang and a messenger asked the preacher to visit his poor, dying mother. He hastened with the weeping child, and as he reached the home he sat down and said, "I have something here that will comfort you." He opened his Bible to look for a familiar promise, but ended with Malachi. There was no Gospel and no promise of hope and salvation, and he could only bow his head and weep with her in bitter despair.

But we are here tonight celebrating the birth of Christ, Who has given to us a great hope. We can be comforted and walk in tremendous joy and peace, knowing that Christ our savior was indeed born almost 2000 years ago. Therefore we have access to Him through faith.

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks to the birth of Jesus Christ, we have the hope of eternal life and a wonderful life here on earth filled with all of the blessings that God continually bestows upon us. Let's give glory to God for all that He has given to us through the birth of Christ as we close with the Christmas carol "Silent Night".