**2024 12 22 NOTES The Significance of the Incarnation.**

**Text: Hebrews 2:14-18**

***“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;***

***15And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.***

***16For verily he took not on Him the nature of angels; but he took on Him the seed of Abraham.***

***17Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto his brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.***

***18For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succour them that are tempted.”***

1. **Condition:**

**Death was brought into the world by the sin of our first parents (Adam and Eve), and in them we fell. We naturally, at birth, we inherit their fallen nature.**

**Considering our natural physical and spiritual state, we live in the constant fear of death, and we are therefore in bondage to sin and death.**

***“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* Romans 8v23.**

**The devil, who has the power of death, is the source of this bondage in tempting our first parents in the garden of Eden.**

1. **Solution:**

**The Eternal Son of God, the second person of the Triune Godhead, as a divine person, took to Himself a human nature, consisting of a body and reasonable soul in order to redeem lost sinners from death and eternal judgment. (As Mr Cane explained in his item last week).**

1. **The Trustworthiness of God:**

**God promised, in the Old Testament Law and Prophets, to send a Saviour, one born of a woman (human nature), yet one who is from everlasting to everlasting. Without a human father, conceived in Mary by The Holy Spirit.**

***“For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.***

***Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this*. (Isaiah 9:6-7).**

**What an amazing prophecy this was!**

**All the promises of God are ‘yea and amen’, in Christ.**

**If God fulfilled His promise in sending His only begotten Son, ought we not to trust Him in all things.**

**2**

**This also teaches us that, just as God’s promises are trustworthy, His warnings ought to be heeded also. Repent and believe in Christ! See Romans 6v23.**

***“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”***

1. **The love of God to sinful men is on full display:**

**Consider this - Men were not the only rational creatures that fell.**

**The Devil and the demons were once angels, but they fell from heaven in their rebellion against God.**

**God did not have to save anyone.**

**Yet, in all of this, Christ did not take the nature of an angel to Himself in order to save the fallen angels, rather he took to Himself a human nature, to save us.**

**This is why He became Immanuel – God with us.**

**In doing so, he was made lower than the angels, made under the law, and underwent the miseries of life in a fallen and dinful world.**

**This showcases God’s special love to redeem sinners of the human race.**

***“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.***

***For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.”* John 3 v16,17.**

**What amazing and wonderful love!**

**So, do not spurn the Lord’s offer of grace and forgiveness in the Gospel.**

1. **The soul and the body are important to God:**

**It was said by one of the early church fathers that, “that which is not assumed in the incarnation is not healed.”**

**In other words, it was necessary for our complete salvation, that Christ took to Himself a true human body and a true reasonable soul. Fully Man, Fully God.**

**The Fall of Adam doesn’t only affect our bodies, but it effects our souls also.**

**By taking to Himself, a true human nature, we learn that Christ cares about not only what we do with our bodies, but also what we do with our souls.**

1. **Our Lord knows by divine knowledge as well as human experience:**

**As Omniscient God He knows all things**

**By the Son becoming incarnate, He has an experiential knowledge of being tempted.**

**This enables Him to succour (help) His People, (those He died to save), in their temptations in a particular way.**

**The Son, due to His divine nature, cannot be tempted. He is God.**

**Yet, in taking to Himself a human nature, the Son was able to be tempted according to His human nature. See Hebrews 4v15.**

***“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”***

**In the incarnation, the Son is made a faithful and merciful high priest through His sufferings, for the redemption of his people.**

**In the Gospel, Christ calls sinners to repentance. Those who turn to the God-man, the Lord Jesus Christ, will know Him as a merciful high priest.**

**3**

**There is much more that can be said about the significance of the incarnation. But please let this not just be words and information that you store in your head.**

**My prayer for you is that you would experience the significance of the incarnation in your own hearts, having been born again of the Holy Spirit, through a saving trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember, He has two natures, a divine and human nature, Who reigns in heaven as the God-Man, today and forevermore.**

**Does He reign in your heart today? Seek Him now in repentance and faith.**