

God and Man

Take a deep breath. The hectic rush is over – and if it is not, for you, and you still have a lot on your plate – take another deep breath.

The Christmas Gospel set before us today – breathed into our ears – is a great mystery – but it is a mystery that is revealed to us. Even though God continues to show us WHO He is and WHAT He is doing – we still can't fully comprehend – we can't wrap our brains around it.

That's why I REJOICE that you are HERE to HEAR – so that you may REJOICE in what the Lord speaks, and reveals, to you.

Christmas is all about the Incarnation of Our Lord – which is the fancy way of saying that God takes on human flesh. “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

The mystery of the Incarnation – that Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem and laid in a manger – is true God AND true man. That is what we are blessed to ponder and treasure this day – even as Mary pondered and treasured this mystery that was revealed to her throughout her life.

God begins by taking us back to the beginning – the “in the beginning” of Genesis 1 when God created the heavens and the earth and everything in them.

Ponder this. “In the beginning” – before the creation of anything – there was only God. Before the creation, there was no time – which is hard for us to comprehend – because we, and time, are part of the creation. But God is outside of time – He is eternal – without beginning, and without end.

Treasure this. The eternal God comes into time at the Incarnation of Our Lord. At a certain point in time, God became true man. When He was conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary – He now is “in time.” So we can say that God ages. He grows. He turns 40 days old, and 12 years old

The Creator of all things who comes to, and into, His creation – is Life. He who gives life to all things – is given life as a human being – conceived, born, lives and dies! He who speaks all things into existence out of nothing – by the power of His Word – comes to give up His Life, for the Life of the world.

“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

“In the beginning” God said “let there be light” – and there was light. He who spoke light into existence, is the Light of the world. Ponder this. Light was created on the first day of creation – but the sun was not created until the fourth day. How can that be?

This is an example of the mystery of God – WHO He is and WHAT He does. We cannot fully comprehend, and wrap our brains around it. But what is revealed is that the sun is not the source of light – but God is. He is our Light, and our Life.

He who is “the true light” and the Life men, is revealed to us in this way. “He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him.”

The one true God is a Giver God – and yet, His own people would not receive Him. He creates all things for the sake of man – but man, in his sinful rebellion – refuses to recognize the Giver, and give thanks to Him.

This is why “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” – why the Creator God becomes part of His creation – why the eternal One comes into time – why God takes on human flesh --- to save all human flesh, to save His people from their sins, to save His beloved children.

This gets to the heart of the Christmas Gospel – freely given – for all to ponder and treasure.

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” The Son of God has been born, to dwell with us – so that we sinners may share His glory.

And what is His glory? First and foremost, to GIVE – to give His life to redeem you from your sins – to give His life so that you may live! Having received the very LIFE of Christ – He now makes you to be a GIVER.

The first thing we give is THANKS to God for His grace and mercy to us. Then we give ourselves to our fellow man – sacrificing our self, as Christ does – for their benefit. His Life, giving life to all – even through people like you and I.

To share in His glory is to be ENLIGHTENED by His Word. His Word exposing the darkness of our sin and driving it away with His forgiveness. His Word enlightening how we are to live as children of God – in faith towards Him, in love towards one another.

His glory is to make known that which is hidden from all mankind – that there is only one true God – and that there is no salvation from sin, death and damnation, apart from that one true God. And who is that one true God? His name is Jesus – the One by which we are saved.

Having received the Light of His Word – we His Church – now preach that light into this sin darkened world – so that all may share in the glory of the Word made flesh.

The glory of God is LIFE itself. He is the God of life – He created us to live, not to die. And so, God becomes man (incarnate) – to redeem sinners – to give LIFE to all who believe His Word. The Life He gives to you this day – is eternal, without end.

A blessed Christmas to you – as you ponder and treasure the Gospel of Our Lord. Amen.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, guards your hearts and minds, in Christ Jesus. Amen.