

December Newsletter

The Miracle of Incarnation

It's December again! We celebrate the coming of the Son of God into our world on this planet. A baby was born – human, a Son was given – divine (Isaiah 9:6). For centuries we struggled and debated this doctrine of incarnation. This miracle is not for debating or analysis, but for worship. His coming is about the joy of salvation, the heavenly hosts singing about Him, and the peace that comes from above. Apostle Paul tells that He is our peace, both with God and among us (Ephesians 2:14-16). This impact was and is beyond understanding. The Son of God came to live among us, to touch us, but also to let Himself be known and be touched.

The miracle of incarnation is that in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily (Colossians 2:9). The baby Jesus who was wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger, is also the omnipresent Lord of the universe. Philippians 2:5–8 tells us that Jesus both “held” and “maintained” the fullness of His divinity, while also not exploiting it or leveraging it against His experience of the fullness of humanity.

Without incarnation, God remains essentially separate from us and from all of creation. Without incarnation, it is not an enchanted universe, but somehow an empty one. 2,000 years ago, as Christians believe, God incarnate took personal form as Jesus of Nazareth. What we celebrate at Christmas is not so much the birth of a baby, as important as that is, but the significance that in this birth we have the incarnation of God Himself.

The New Testament affirms three central truths about our Lord Jesus Christ: that He is God, He is man, and He is holy.

We can give thanks to the Lord that He is God. The angel announced to Mary that Jesus would be “The Son of the Most High,” and “The Son of God” (Luke 1:32, 35). Matthew records that He is “God with us” (Matthew 1:23). John describes Him as the Word of God who became flesh (John 1:14). God spoke His promise in words, and when His Word became flesh, His promise was delivered. Only God can fulfill what God has promised, so we can give thanks today that Jesus Christ is God.

And we can give thanks that He is man. The angel said to Mary, “The One to be born will be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:35). Christ was born as we are born, to live our life, and die our death. He came to us, and stood with us, to act for us. Only as God can He deliver what God has promised. Only as man can He deliver what God has promised to us.

We can always praise Him because He is holy. The angel also announced that He is Holy. "The Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35). Here is something that has not been seen before, or since: a man who is holy by nature. This man belongs in heaven and, because He is God, He has the capacity to bring others there with Him. The union of God and man in Jesus Christ, the Holy One, opens the door of hope for us.

This Christmas, let's marvel that the Incarnation presents to us the fullness of God *in* the fullness of man, because it proclaims to us the great big Gospel of the fullness of God *for* the fullness of man. This is the joy of Salvation. LET US REJOICE IN HIM!

Ovidiu Dorin Druhora