**Priorities of Advent**

**The True Value of Christ’s Birth**

**Selected Scriptures December 25, 2022**

**Pastor John Lloyd**

As we enter into this advent season, our hearts can be filled with concerns for so many things. Our world is filled with both wonderful and terrible events each day. The holidays add even more weight to all that we may be experiencing. Advent is a time to purposefully slow down and let our hearts appreciate and enjoy time with our Lord Jesus Christ. It’s a time to both remember Jesus first coming but also to welcome His presence into our lives right now. We will purpose to reflect on Jesus and what the impact of his first advent. We will also look forward to what His presence means to us going forward both in this life and the next. This Christmas morning we want to take a few moments to soak in the true value of Christ’s Birth and what it means to us!

I John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— 3that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

**Why do we celebrate the birth of Jesus? Why is it so important that God became man? What impact can all of this have on my life?**

1. The Birth of Jesus deals with the \_\_\_\_ between \_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_.

Isaiah 59:2 but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,

Matthew 1:21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Luke 2:9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

John 1:14 And 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.

**Deity united with humanity is proof and the pathway that we can united with God.**

**Spiritual Growth Questions for December 25, 2022**

1. Reflect on how God has been with you this past year. Think of as many instances of His presence in your life. Share with a friend His faithfulness.
2. Spend some time praying for someone who needs to know that Jesus is God with us. Pray for God to reveal Himself afresh to their hearts.

Too often we struggle to serve willingly and to give generously. Unwillingness is one of sin’s powerful damaging results. So here’s what the Christmas story is all about: a willing Savior is born to rescue unwilling people from themselves because there is no other way. Without His willingness, you and I would be without hope and without God. Right now He is willing to battle on your behalf against evil within and without. He right now, is willing to empower you when you’re weak and to restore you when you’ve fallen. You see, the Advent story reminds us that our past, present, and future hope rest not on our willingness, but on the willingness of the One for whom the angels sang, the shepherds worshiped, and the magi searched. Willing Jesus is the only hope for unwilling sinners!

1. Ask God to show you the areas where you have been unwilling. Places where you have not submitted to His will. One by one bring those areas to Jesus. Pray to the Lord, “Not my will but thy will be done.

 If you believe this all things are possible. He can reconcile you to God. There is forgiveness for your sins. You can have a relationship with God, and He will be with you.

1. Plan to prayerfully implement the following suggestions:

1.Tuck a song in your heart.

2. Make an anonymous gift to someone.

3. Offer a Christmas pardon.

4. Do a Christmas devotion.

5. Find a Sanctuary.

6. Do a special act of service.

7. Write a yearly letter to Jesus.

**Merry Christmas! Much love from our Lord to you and your loved ones!**

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We have heard-

We have seen-

We looked upon-

We have touched-

The life was made manifest-

John 1:14 And 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.

**God wants to have a relationship with you! His birth is proof that God is reaching out to you!**

III. The birth of Jesus gives us a \_\_\_\_\_\_ for how we \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_.

I John 2:6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Philippians 2:5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 22:37 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38This is the great and first commandment.39And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

John 13:15For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Some possible applications:**

1. Tuck a song in your heart.
2. Make an anonymous gift to someone.
3. Offer a Christmas pardon.
4. Do a Christmas devotion.
5. Find a Sanctuary.
6. Do a special act of service.
7. Write a yearly letter to Jesus.

**Turning Point: I want to allow Jesus to live His life through me! I surrender control of my life to Jesus. Not my will but thy will! Merry Christmas! Much love to each one studying this outline!**

Colossians 2:9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

“Christianity says God has been all the places you have been; he has been in the darkness you are in now, and more. And, therefore, you can trust him; you can rely on him, because he knows and has the power to comfort, strengthen, and bring you through.” Timothy Keller

2 Corinthians 5:18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19that is, in Christ God was reconcilingthe world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Be Reconciled to God! Be reconciled to each other!**

**No matter how far you may think you are from God, it is not too far for God. Because God became man, He can reconcile you to Him.**

**If God can deal with this gap, He can deal with any gap that I am facing.**

II. The birth of Jesus makes it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for us to really \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.

Luke 2:9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

He didn’t say good advice. Advice is counsel about what you must do. News is a report about what has already been done. Advice urges you to make something happen. News urges you to recognize something that has happened and to respond to it. Advice says it is all up to you to act. News says someone else has acted. Timothy Keller

John 1:18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

I John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— 3that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.