

First Church of God

Sermon Outline

December 2, 2012

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"The Meaning of Christmas"

John 1:14-18

¹⁴The WORD became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me.'" ¹⁶From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God, but God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

INTRODUCTION

What is the meaning of Christmas for you or what should it be?

I. CHRISTMAS MEANS IDENTIFICATION. (vs.14a)

A. "The WORD became flesh."

1. God **identified** with our human situation by becoming a person in Jesus Christ.
—God came to earth in the person of Jesus Christ.

—The WORD **FLESH** (sarx) is the same word that Paul used to describe **man's nature** with all its weaknesses and tendency to sin.

—**Key:** Jesus is both **human** and **divine**.

“The WORD became flesh means that he became **Human**.”

By doing so, Christ became —

(1) The perfect **teacher**.

Philippians 2:5-11...⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! ⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(2) The perfect **example**.

I Peter 2:21...To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

(3) The perfect **sacrifice**.

Colossians 1:15-23... ¹⁵It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of good will. ¹⁶The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. ¹⁸But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²²If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;

B. “The WORD became flesh”

II. CHRISTMAS MEANS INVOLVEMENT (vs. 14b)

A. The God who becomes a human being actually “dwelt among us” (KJV)

Dwelt literally means **“Tabernacle”**

—The first proof of the incarnation is that Jesus Christ **dwelt** visibly among us.
—Gods glory was **seen**.

B. There is a glory in the WORD living among us.

1. Christ was the “Shekinah” **Glory** of God.

—Shekinah means “that which **dwells** or dwelling.”

James, who was the Lord’s brother, even called Jesus “The Lord of Glory.” The one in whom the very presence of God **dwelt** among us.

2. Grace became the **kindness and love** that dwells within the very nature of God...

Point: The kindness and love that God freely give to His **enemies**.

—God gave his own Son to die for His **Enemies**.

Romans 5:8-10...⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! ¹⁰For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Christ’s perfection revelation is His “Truth”.

Point: The real and authentic **Truth** as opposed to that which is only a shade or shadow of truth.

TRUTH = **Moral** truth
Saving truth
Working truth
Living truth

Key: It is not simply something to be **known**. It is something to be **lived out**.

III. CHRISTMAS MEANS INSPIRATION (vs. 6-18)...

¹⁶From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God, but God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

A. Christ is the One who supplies the **NEEDS** of His people.

—The WORD **"Fullness"** (pleroma) means that which fills; the sum total; the totality.

It is the sum total of **all** that is in God!

THE TERMS:

- (1) "The fullness of His grace = full to **overflowing**."
- (2) "One blessing after another" means that He gives grace enough to meet all our needs ... No matter the **circumstances**."

B. The Law came through Moses but Truth came through Jesus Christ.

It does not come...

1. By being as **Good** as we can.
2. By working to **Please** God as much as we can.
3. By keeping the **Rules** and commandments of the Law.

C. Christ makes known the Father (vs 18)

- (1) The close, intimate **relationship** between Father and Son is stressed.

(2)

Point: (vs.18 KJV) "Only Begotten" —does not denote Christ's earthly birth but describes the loving **Relationship** of the Son with the Father.

- (3) The only way we can know the Father is through the **Son**.
John 14:6... Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

CONCLUSION: