

The Incarnation and Its Message
Titus 2:9-14

Introduction

- A. The celebration of Christmas is a very transitory matter. On December 26 it will be out of place to say "Merry Christmas."
- B. In contrast, the message and effects of the Birth of Jesus Christ are permanent. The Savior was born into our race so He could redeem us. The value of His birth and death does not change with the passage of time.
- C. To our sinful and naturalistic way of thinking – His birth is a shock, an offense – it tells us to stop sinning.

I. The Content of the Message: Live to adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

Exhort servants (slaves) to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things, not answering again (talking back), not purloining (stealing), but shewing all good fidelity (trustworthy), that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things. Vs 9,10

- A. The believer is called to transcend his sin nature and circumstances.
- B. The believer is called to live so the Gospel will be clear and attractive.

II. The Basis of the Message: There is grace in Jesus Christ.

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared (Incarnation) to all men. V11

- A. Grace and salvation are intimately related to the birth of Jesus Christ.
- B. Without the Incarnation – there could be no redemption.
- C. The evidence of divine love and provision is seen in the Savior's birth.

III. The Instruction of the Message: Respond to God in daily obedience.

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world, looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.

A. Concerning our past life: Deny ungodliness and worldly lusts

1. "Ungodliness" refers to all actions and attitudes which are not in harmony with God's nature of truth, love, and holiness.
2. "Worldly lusts" refers to all actions and attitudes which are selfish and self-centered.
3. The birth of Jesus Christ calls us to say "No" to every type of sin even though we are seemingly controlled by unjust circumstances.

B. Concerning our present; Live soberly, righteously, and godly lives.

1. "Soberly" has to do with ourselves – we are to obey God and live a life under our control – not in bondage to sin or circumstances.

Self-control is one facet of the Fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:23

2. "Righteously" has to do with our relationship with others. We are to live a life characterized by doing what is right.

Righteousness is also a facet of the Fruit of the Spirit. Eph. 5:9

3. "Godly" has to do with our walk with God. We are to do those things upon which the blessing of God rests and in harmony with His Person.

Godliness is to be the concern of every believer. I Tim. 4:8; 6:11

C. Concerning our future: Looking for that blessed hope ... Jesus Christ.

1. Our future must not be filled with self-centered goals – not even freedom – but living in daily expectation of Christ's return.

2. Our desires, priorities and goals must go beyond this life. It is possible to be ashamed when Christ comes for us! I John 2:28

III. The Provision in the Message: We have been redeemed.

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar (treasured) people, zealous of good works. V14

A. The provision described: Who gave himself for us.

1. The act of sacrifice is related to His birth as well as His death.
2. The gospel is more than a doctrine – it is a person giving Himself sacrificially as our substitute.

B. The provision explained:

1. His birth points to the power of redemption.
 - a. "Redeem us from all iniquity" – In Jesus Christ sin, the world, death, and Satan has been judged. The believer has been set free.
 - b. "Purify unto himself a treasured people" – This was His goal in coming into the world – His people.
 - c. "Zealous of good works" – This is the evidence of salvation. Without good works (Vs 9-13) there is no basis for assurance.
2. His birth demands our honest and practical application of these truths to our daily life. We may not live as though the Incarnation did not happen.

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