

The Instruction of the Incarnation

Titus 2:11-14

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. It is helpful and encouraging to remind ourselves that the reality or the effects or the purpose of the Incarnation are permanent. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born into our human race to die as our substitute on the cross. The value of His birth and death does not change with the passage of time.
- C. In Titus 2:11-14 we are reminded of the instruction of the Incarnation.

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

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;

Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

I. The Basis of the Instruction. Titus 2:11

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.
Titus 2:11

A. God has become a member of the human race.

1. This is one of the most important events of all time.

2. It is fitting that we stop and ask "What does this mean?"

B. This appearance is intimately related to grace and salvation.

1. Grace is the motivating source of the Incarnation.

2. Salvation is the beneficial effect of the Incarnation.

II. The Content of the Instruction. Titus 2:12,13

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts...

A. Concerning our past life – we must renounce all patterns of life and thought that are not pleasing to God.

1. The angel said: "He shall save His people from their sins."

2. We may not live as though the Incarnation did not happen.

B. Concerning our present – our daily life now – we are to live:

. . . We should live soberly, righteously, and godly . . .

1. Soberly – in regard to ourselves (live as a responsible person).
2. Righteously – in regard to others (live as an honest person)
3. Godly -- in regard to God (live as a spiritual person).

C. Concerning our future -- live expecting the return of our Savior

. . . Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.

1. The reality of the Incarnation reminds us of His coming.
2. His coming is as sure and certain as His first coming.

III. The Provision Behind the Incarnation. Titus 2:14

Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

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

1. The purpose of His birth -- make His death possible.
2. In Jesus Christ we have every provision for redemption.
This includes all areas of our life and service.

B. The provision explained: That He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

1. The Incarnation and Crucifixion has made redemption possible.
2. This redemption is a very practical.
 - a . It is a redemption from iniquity.
 - b . It is a purification unto Himself of a peculiar people.
 - c . It is a purifying of a people zealous of good works.

Conclusion

A. Question: What must one do to have all these benefits?

B. Answer: Repent of our sin, believe on Jesus Christ as Savior and acknowledge Him as Lord, by faith and love, in all areas of life.

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