

December 22, 2019 - Christmas #2 (19099-A)

God With Us, part 2

Philippians 2:1-13

I. Luke 1:35. The child conceived in you will be God in the flesh. God's DNA.

- A. Mary could not have understood what we know today about Jesus.
- B. But she could trust God's word and grow in her understanding.

II. All the first Christians were slow to understand and shocked to discover that Jesus of Nazareth is actually God in the flesh. But discover it they certainly did. So, after the resurrection they wrote these kinds of things:

- A. John 1:14. The Word became flesh and lived among us.
- B. John 20:28-29. My lord and my God...
- C. Col.1:15. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
- D. Col.2:8-9. In Him the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form.
- E. Heb.1:1-3. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature.
- F. The most detailed is... **Phil.2:1-13.**

III. Phil.2:1-13. Christmas means that God has become one of us—human. When a person comes to Christ, four counterintuitive eternal, supernatural realities come into play:

A. His Mind begins to transform our minds. 1-5 (1Cor.2:16). *We become Truly Human, like Him.* Gal.4:19; Matt.28:18-20.

1. His Mind has joined our minds. (The Spirit=Pure Mind) *His perfect Human Mind*
 - a) *Have this mind in (among and within) you—Christ's mind. (1Cor.2:16) (nous)*
 - b) A new way of thinking/feeling about everything, though He does not do our thinking for us.
2. Therefore, we become new humans with new character (Rom.5:12-21; 2 Cor.5:16-21)
 - a) Encouragement in Christ. bracing encouragement, good counsel)
 - b) Comfort from love (loving comfort/encouragement)
 - c) Affection and sympathy/compassion
 - d) Participation/sharing in the Spirit (a supernatural connection)
 - e) Unity and mutuality/Humility and service. (tangible love relationships)
3. *Union with Christ through his incarnation means we really are His sort of person now.*

B. His Emptiness becomes the paradigm for our Growth. 7 (kenosis = empty)

1. Why would the Lord (through Paul) instruct the Philippians to grow by using the emptying incarnation, death, resurrection and ascension as his illustration?
 - a) *Because This is the shape of all spiritual growth in Christ. 1 Pet.2:21-25*
2. **The “dying seed” principle of spiritual growth. Loss=fruit. John 12:20-26; 15:1-5**
 - a) We are given this life.
 - b) We experience loss, trauma, grief, sorrow...we “die”
 - c) We trust the Lord through it. Like Jesus trusted Father.
 - d) We experience glory, fruitfulness, resurrection. This life/next.
3. **Humility: The way of growth—a fast for the Ego.**
4. *The hardest things in our lives, when they are turned over to the Lord, become the seedbed of glory—real sharing of glory with the Lord—because we are emptied in order to be filled.*

C. His Destiny becomes our Hope, (and that of our universe). 9-11; Heb.2:14-18; Eph.2:4-8

1. **Humans are permanently linked to physical reality**, the material cosmos. But fallen.
 - a) We don't become another order of being, angel, ghost, etc.
 - b) And we don't lose our identity in Moksha (Hinduism) or Nirvana (Buddhism)
2. **Therefore, God has become permanently linked with the fallen world. Heb.2:14-18**
 - a) He does not need it and it is not "an extension" of His life.
 - b) But he has entered it in a tangible and permanent way!
3. **So that we can share His glorious destiny forever. Eph.2:4-8**
 - a) **Destiny:** The Trinitarian, Eternal Life is the Destiny of God Himself.
 - b) **Hope:** Hope is a type of certainty regarding a future blessing. The emphasis on it is certainty.
4. *Therefore, the cosmos cannot remain dead—it simply must be resurrected—And us along with it.*
 - a) *The Regeneration of the universe is inevitable. Matt.19:28*
 - b) *Your resurrection is inevitable because you are joined to the resurrected Man, Jesus, Lord of the redeemed universe and the next age.*

D. Because His Obedience becomes our Eternal Life. 8. 2 Cor.5:17-21

1. Even death on a cross. Why? To take our place and rescue us and grant us eternal reconciliation and life as a free gift. His obedience is imputed to us by faith.
2. He became our sin so that we would become his righteousness. Double imputation.
3. We are married to God in Christ (Eph.5:22-33). He gets our debt; we get his inheritance. Eph.3:16. Riches of his glory...

IV. So...

A. If you have not come to God through Christ. Come now.

B. If God is your Father because you are in Christ, rejoice and live worthy (1:27)