

The Paradox of Christmas **Jesus Physical yet Spiritual** **John 1:14**

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Physical things we can understand. We can make them, move them, shape them. Even with people we are into the physical. Exercise, cosmetic surgery, eating, sleeping, sports, ballet, decorations, plants, pets and on and on and on, we into the physical.

But the Bible tells us there is also a spiritual world. It is a world that cannot be seen with the physical eye. You cannot touch it with your fingers, walk on it, climb it, smell it, or even hear it. It is beyond the senses that we have that interface with this world. It is another world, another existence but just as real as the physical.

The Bible also teaches us that these two worlds influence one another. Paul said in Eph 6:12 “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

He is telling us that the Christian battle is not fought with physical means. It is a battle that can be waged from a wheel chair, or a hospital bed or a prison cell.

But how does all this relate to Christmas?

What does the spiritual world have to do with a babe in a manger in Bethlehem 2000 years ago?

- I. Jesus is the head of the spiritual world.
 - A. He brought it into existence.
 - B. He is the one that every spiritual being will answer to in the end.
 - C. He is the eternal LOGOS, creator of all things.
 1. Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.
- II. He is the designer of every individual part of the creation.
 - A. Not only your physical body, but your disposition.
 - B. Your tendency to be able to be good at certain things.
- III. Since He is the designer, He has the answers.
 - A. He encourages us seek first spiritual things and then the physical things we will have.
 1. It is like the physical things are easy to get, they are a bonus.

2. Seek God, find Him and everything else will be given to you.
 3. The opposite is true, seek only worldly things and you will labor all your life and not be satisfied.
 4. Rockefeller spent his life amassing the greatest wealth, but did not find fulfilment until he started giving it away.
 5. But even that Paul tells us without love profits us nothing. 1 Cor 13
- B. He talks about the futility of the man that gains the whole world and loses his own soul.
- C. He speaks of spiritual concern that God has for His creatures and how He instructs us to keep us from destruction.
- IV. If that baby born in Bethlehem was no more than human then we are on a vast empty ocean without chart, compass, sail or hope.
- A. Jesus was God reaching out to us.
1. Most religions are about man reaching out to God.
 2. But Christianity is about the supreme God of the universe reaching down to humanity to bring them hope, a chance at immortality, eternal life.
 3. He was the very handiwork of God to rescue us from our sins, from ourselves.
- B. If to you that baby was just a baby, then there is nothing in Christmas for you.
1. Oh you can give gifts, eat big meals and watch the game.
 2. You might take some special time with your family and feel a natural warmth, attraction for the time you spend together.
 3. But when you have torn down the tree, and put away the decorations, and finished the last left over turkey or ham, there is nothing left for you in Christmas.
 4. It was just another holiday, from the term HOLY DAY
 5. Because if you have never made that man who was born in a manger the manager of your life, then Christmas has nothing that will stick to you.
- C. But if you confess your sins, and repent and surrender to God's will, Christmas will be a Holy Day for every day of the year.
1. For me every day is Christmas and Easter rolled up in one.
 2. I cannot escape it and I don't want to.
 3. Every day I live with the realization that if God had not sent His Son, to be

born in a stable, to die on a cross, my life would be a total wreck, empty and void of any peace or satisfaction.

4. But since I live every day with Jesus birth, death, and resurrection in mind, I know who God is and who I am in His plan, and that is what is most important.
5. I know that although in the physical realm, I will never have much in this life, yet I know that in an eternal world to come, that I, little old me, will reign with Him forever, and ever AMEN