

**WHY DID THE SON OF GOD BECOME A MAN?
JESUS, THE SAVIOR**
Matthew 1:18-25

Intro: Two weeks ago when I began this four-message Christmas series on the subject, “Why did the Son of God become a Man?”, I mentioned that there were two main answers to that question. First, the Son of God became a Man in order to complete the revelation of God which began in Genesis 1:1 where we read, “in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” As I have said many, many times, the Bible is not only a revelation from God, *but it is a revelation of God*. It is full of theology, the knowledge of God. The fact that the Son of God could, and did, say, “He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father,” is evidence that we have as much knowledge of God in the coming of His Son as we would have if God Himself had come in the flesh.

There was much about God that was manifested in the Person of our Lord Jesus Christ. We see many evidences of His Deity in the story of His life on earth which has been recorded for us by four writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Those four books occupy almost half of the NT. That says volumes about the importance of our Lord as to His character, His teaching, and His miraculous works. But when the Lord took the apostles Peter, James, and John to what has been called, the mount of transfiguration, the glory of the Lord, the Deity of the Lord, was displayed before them. And the Apostle John writing about that event some sixty years afterwards, had this to say about it:

14 And the Word was made 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 (John 1:14).

Peter recorded what he and Peter and James saw at that time, in these words which we find in 2 Peter 1:16-18:

16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

That was one of the two main reasons that the Son of God became a Man.

Last Sunday I spoke of a second reason that the Son of God became a Man. This is not the second main reason, but it is one of the reasons, and a very important reason. It is this: *the Son of God came to give us the greatest of all examples that we have of how to live a life on earth that is pleasing to God.* We have many examples of people in both the Old and New Testaments of how to live lives that are pleasing to God. But the Lord Jesus Christ is the Example *par excellence*, which means *preeminently*, or *without equal*. He was a perfect Example of Godly living. Others have been *good* examples, but the Son of God was a *perfect* Example! We have been saved to be like the Lord. None of us is going to reach that goal in this life. But we need to be headed in that direct. To grow spiritually is to become more like the Lord Jesus Christ.

Next Sunday, the Lord willing I want to speak of another reason why the Son of God became a Man. My text will be Hebrews 2:17-18 where we read:

17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

The Son of God became a Man in order that for us “He might be a merciful and faithful high priest.” That will probably be the hardest message to bring because it deals with the earthly life of our Lord where His humanity is especially prominent. It is a wonderful subject, but it goes beyond any-thing that any of us can fully comprehend.

The Message of the Morning

This morning I want to speak of the second main reason why the Son of God became a Man. It is the reason that we are the most familiar with. It is expressed all over the Bible in many ways. But we have it in the verses which Tony read to us this morning. I am referring to the words which were spoken to Joseph by the angel of the Lord. You will find his message in verses 20 and 21 of Matthew 1:

20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name

JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Notice the words of verse 21. (Read.)

The other passage that is referred to most often at Christmas time along with Matthew 1, is in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 2, verses 8 to 14. As most of you know this is the passage where Luke tells us about the appearance of the angel of the Lord to the shepherds, and what the angel of the Lord told them. I am sure most of you will remember those words, but listen to them again as I read them to you. I am just going to read verses 8 through 11:

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:8-11).

Note the words of verse 11 again. (Read.)

You probably will remember the story of Zacchaeus, the publican, who climbed up into a tree so he could see the Lord. When the Lord came to that tree, He told Zacchaeus to come down out of the tree because the Lord wanted to go home with him. So he did, and was very happy to do so, and the Lord spent most of the day with him. At the end of the day, as the Lord was preparing to leave, this is what the Lord said to him:

9 And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forso much as he also is a son of Abraham.

10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:9-10).

In 1 John 4:14 the Apostle John wrote,

14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

And the Apostle Peter said as he was speaking to Jews in Jerusalem soon after the Lord Jesus had gone back to heaven,

12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

When Paul wrote his great letter to the church at Rome, he said concerning salvation,

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the

Jew first, and also to the Greek (Rom. 1:16-17).

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

When we get back to our study in Ephesians, we are going to have those familiar verses which teach us,

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast (Eph. 2:8-9).

I could spend more time than we have here this morning reading about Jesus Christ as our Savior and the need for all to be saved. But someone who is not familiar with these verses from God's Word might be expected to ask, "Saved from what?" That is a question I wish everyone would ask. You see, those who are preaching a gospel of prosperity, or of health and wealth, are not preaching the Gospel of the Bible. The Bible teaches that we all are sinners. Romans 3:23 says "for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." In the OT book of Ecclesiastes we read that "there is not a just man upon the earth that doeth good, and sinneth not" (Ecc. 7:20). But

it also tells us that "the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). This means spiritual death, eternal separation from God, suffering the torments of hell forever. But that same verse, Romans 6:23, tells us that even though "the wages of sin is death, the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." The Apostle Paul, in speaking of his own salvation, wrote to Timothy that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Save sinners from what? Paul said in Romans 5:9 that we shall "be saved from wrath through Him," through Jesus Christ and the death that He died on Calvary's cross many years ago.

So when the angel of the Lord told Joseph to name Mary's child Jesus, "for He shall save His people from their sins." So the announcement of Jesus' birth was also an announcement of His death.

Now I want all of us to think about this for a moment. You can see why the Devil is constantly doing everything that he can to keep the truth of the birth of the Son of God from reaching our minds and our hearts. Reading your newspaper, or listening to the news on radio and TV, ought to be telling us if we have any wisdom at all, that there is something terribly wrong in our world. And history tells the same story, of wars and rumors of war. People see this, but most people, our politicians among

them, are not looking in the right place for the cause of it all. Where do we need to look? We need to look at the human heart, alienated from God because of sin, and faced with what is to us an unsolvable problem. The history of mankind is a history of wars and rumors of wars. There is nothing that can change the human heart but the Gospel. Jesus Christ is not just one Savior among many others; He is the only Savior. And for God to send His Son into the world to save sinners, means that there is no salvation in any other way, or in any other Person. He, being the Son of God, was not a sinner, and therefore He is the only One Who was qualified before God to take our sins upon Himself and pay the penalty which was hanging over us. If there was any other possibility that we could be saved, then the death of Christ was the greatest mistake that every was made. But God makes no mistakes and He had mercy upon us in sending His Son to die in our place for our sins, that we might be forgiven and have the gift of eternal life.

So Christ died, not because He deserved to die, but because we deserved to die. He died for us, He paid the penalty for our sins, His people, that we might not go to hell, but become fit for heaven.

But there are other wonderful truths concerning our Savior. He died to save us from the power of sin. He died to set us free from the bondage of sin. Do you know why people keep sinning when they know that they are ruining their lives and often the lives of others? It is because they are the slaves of sin. Not everyone is the slave of the same sins, but all are slaves of sin. Only Christ can set us free.

How else does the Lord save us? He saves us from the power of the Devil, and only Christ can do that. People will soon be making new year's resolutions, determined to do better in 2008. But without Christ as our Savior 2008 will be just like 2007, or worse. We are the ones who need to be changed. The world, over which for the time being, the Devil reigns, will always pull us down and away from God and everything that is good in his sight. Only Christ can set us free. Oh, we are always going to struggle with temptation and sin, but Christ alone can give us victory.

Why did the Son of God become a Man? He came in obedience to the Father's will to die as the God Who became Man in order that He might save sinners from the penalty of their sins. But He also saves us from the power of our sins, so that we can live holy lives, pleasing to God and pleasing to us as well, and some day, thank God, when we are with the

Lord we will never have trouble with sin anymore because for those of us who are saved, there will be no more sin. “Thou shalt call His Name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins” – save them now from sin’s penalty, and we are being saved from sin’s deadly influence in our lives, and some day when we are with the Lord and like the Lord, sin will be a thing of the past.

We could talk about other reasons that God sent His Son into this world as a Man, but nothing surpasses this in glory, that God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through Him, through Christ, might be saved. (Quote John 3:16, 17.) It took the death of Christ to save me. Most of you know that it took the death of Christ to save you. There is no hope anywhere in this world, except in Christ. Its not religion that people need; it’s Christ!

Concl: I want to read one more passage to you as I close today. They are four verses which were in our memory book this past year. I have been trying like some of you to hang on to those twelve assignment like some of you have, but I especially love the assignment on “the Grace of God,” Assignment 9. Perhaps you remember that there are just two passages in that assignment. Ephesians 2:8-10 is the first; Titus 2:11-14 is the second. The second passage is the one I want to close with because it, too, speaks of “salvation.” And I will just make a few comments as I read it. You can follow me as I read by turning to it in your Bible, or you can just listen to the reading, whatever you choose to do. (Read Titus 2:11-14.)

“Thou shalt call His Name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21).