

Sovereign Grace Church

“God With Us” outline

December 24, 2017

John 1: 14

Christmas is a celebration of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. It sounds simple but isn't. The Incarnation involves the free decision of an infinite Being to be “emptied” into a very finite earthen vessel. The purpose for such an act was two-fold: to provide a vessel suitable to bear the sins of His people in death and also to meaningfully demonstrate what life lived in the presence of God was like and to invite everyone willing to enter into such a life with Him.

This afternoon we will consider the former and in this morning's message the latter. The two are certainly related. The purpose for which we were created was not to have our sins forgiven....but to rejoice in the eternal fellowship of our supremely joyous and loving Creator. Of course, such fellowship would be impossible apart from the forgiveness of our sins. But then forgiveness of sins would be pretty worthless if the one forgiven has no interest in living the Life for which forgiveness is the Door. This morning then we will consider the Incarnation in conjunction with Jesus' Gospel of invitation to enjoy Eternal Life in His Kingdom of Power and Light.

1. The WORD....

Ac. 17:28; Rom. 1: 20-21; Jn 1: 4; 17: 3; Phil. 2: 5-7

2.Became FLESH

Jn 14: 12; Rom. 7: 19

3.and DWELT Among Us
Eph. 2: 5-6

4. and We Beheld His Glory
Heb. 10: 1; 9:24; Eph. 2: 8

Questions for Discussion and Reflection

- 1. The doctrine of the Incarnation is expressed in Articles 28 and 29 of the Belgic Confession. Do you think this explanation is faithful to the Scriptures? Do you understand what is being expressed? How would you explain to someone who inquired as to who Jesus Christ really is? Is there more to be said about His incarnation than the information given in the answers? What would it be?**
- 2. Why do more people not respond to Jesus' invitation to enter His Kingdom? Why in particular were the religious leaders of His day not interested? What did they have to lose? What did they have to gain? How does that inform the pros and cons of our own decisions?**
- 3. What does it mean to live in the Kingdom of God? Many Christians believe that this opportunity is reserved for a future time after Christ comes again? What do you think? Can they both be right? How?**
- 4. Read Philippians 2: 1-11 as a family or small group (2-3)....perhaps at your family Christmas gathering. How should what is conveyed in this passage affect your relations to one another? What needs to change? How can we use the example of Jesus' incarnation to learn how to interact with those around us? What does it mean to love them? Can you love a small child and allow him to play on the freeway? If love is the disposition to do other's good...how is the good defined?**