

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR THE MONTH DECEMBER 2017

What Is Christmas

Luke 2:1-20

Sunday, December 3, 2017

Some things we accept by tradition and never question. The happy Christmas season we accept with never a question as to what it really is all about. “Well, it is a time of happiness and family fun,” we say. Yes it is a time for Christmas trees, the wide-eyed looks of children as they wait for a visit from Santa Claus, the great stack of Christmas cards that fill the mailbox, the beautiful sound of Christmas carols; it is all of this, but let me hasten to say that Christmas is so much more than this. At the beginning of this season, there is a great need for each one of us to pause and reflect upon the true meaning of Christmas. What is Christmas all about anyway? I want to discuss with you three questions about Christmas.

I. What do unbelievers say about Christmas?

A. Unbelieving historians may wish to banish Palestine and the story of Bethlehem’s stable from the plan of world history, teaching our pleasure-loving generation that nothing really begin then as it relates to spiritual life. Yet these self-same historians cannot explain the power of Jesus’ life. And yet the world has never been the same since that occasion of the birth of Jesus in that Bethlehem stable. The birth of Jesus was such a light in a dark world, that this glorious truth has not changed in twenty centuries.

Sunday, December 10, 2017

II. What does the Bible say?

The Bible, which each believer rightly accepts as the revealed Word of God, speaks plainly about the true significance of Christmas. It tells us that:

A. Christmas is the expression of God's love. "God so loved the world that He gave" [John 3:16]. God set the example of giving for those who did not deserve his gift nor who had the ability to reciprocate, and thus, the Christmas desire to give gifts to those in need who may not deserve such gifts and who cannot reciprocate.

Sunday, December 17, 2017

B. Christmas is the celebration of what God did - gave his only begotten son to come down to earth to reveal that God is a God of love and not simply a God of righteous indignation. There are people who say that Jesus is a historical figure, a good man, but not any more the Son of God than you and I are Sons of God. This only indicates that they have never had a personal experience with Christ. When a person has had a personal experience with Christ, he knows what Christ's power has done for him and is therefore able to recognize Jesus as the Son of the living God and to recognize that Jesus is very much God and also very much man- both divine and human. Thus he recognizes that God identified with the great needs of humankind in this way. Christmas is the fulfillment of God's plan of the ages to step into the pages of human history and intervene on behalf of his sinful condition. Through the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem's stable, God set into motion his plan for saving sinful people who were totally unable to save themselves. The glorious completion of that plan would be found in the scene of the Cross of Calvary.

Sunday, December 24, 2017

III. What do you say?

What do you say about the significance of that event in Bethlehem's stable over two thousand years ago?

A. In your heart: Is Christmas a time of solemn review in your heart of what the coming of the babe in Bethlehem's stable means to you? Of how your faith in him has given you a new perspective of the meaning of life and the hope of eternity? I feel sorry for those who spend their time in denying that Jesus Christ is the son of the living God. They have no hope of eternal life. Do you have a deep and abiding faith in the babe of Bethlehem's stable in your heart? Has He been born in your heart?

B. By your life: Has the truth of Christmas changed your way of life? Have you placed your faith in Him to the extent that He has changed your way of life? By your life, are you revealing that the truth of Bethlehem's stable resides in your heart?

During this Christmas season, let us so conduct ourselves in a manner that all may see the glorious truth of Christmas revealed in our hearts and lives.