

THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS — 1Tim3:16

The scriptures are clear that we as human beings are the creation of God; we are all, indeed, fearfully and wonderfully made (Ps139:14). The stamp of intelligent design is visible to anyone other than the stubbornly blind who deny what is plainly evident. But the purpose of scripture is not primarily to teach us that we are not highly evolved slime, but rather it is to speak of Christ. In the middle of time (Gal4:4) the unknowable God sent forth his Son into world history, MADE of a woman, so that he, the infinite God who is Spirit and unable to make satisfaction to his offended holiness, became a man for the purpose of redeeming the multitude he loved in grace before time began (Heb2:14). *Great is the mystery of Godliness* (1Tim3:16), that the infinite God should be 'contracted to a span' so that the fulness of the Godhead dwelt bodily in Jesus the Man (Col2:9). Only as infinite God could he save an innumerable multitude from the consequences of their sins, but only as a Man could God make satisfaction to the demands of his justice in dying and shedding his precious blood (human blood in which was the life of a true man) to pay their sin-penalty. If God the Holy Spirit has given you the eyes of faith to see this, how glad you will be when you see Him (Psalm119:74). AJ

THREE GREAT TRUTHS OF THE INCARNATION

1. The birth of Christ declares his people were dead in trespasses and in sins, incapable of justifying themselves by the works of the law. (Rom3: 0-22) Nothing less than the Son of God coming in human flesh and laying down his life for his people could justify us from our sins.
2. The birth of Christ manifests the love of God for his elect. God's love is only in his Son toward those

God chose in his Son. (Rom8:39; Eph1:3-6) We know God's elect are the "us" to whom God manifested his love because Christ accomplished that for which God sent him: Christ propitiated God for us so that God gives each of his people eternal life through him—"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1Jo4:9-10).

3. The birth of Christ declares God is righteous. Christ was born to die that he might declare God's "righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus" (Rom 3: 26). God would not justify his guilty people at the expense of his justice because God is righteous. Therefore, God sent his own Son who took flesh and upheld the law by bearing our sin and curse on the cross. God spared not his own Son but delivered him up for all his people—that is how righteous God is (Rom8:32). The birth of our Lord Jesus that he might die as the Substitute of his people declares it was a necessity, due to the holy and righteous character of God, that God justify his people in harmony with his justice. Thanks be to God, Christ succeeded, "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other" (Ps 85: 10).

Clay Curtis

CHRISTMAS IN AUGUST??

No doubt some might wonder why the articles above have a 'ring of Christmas' about them in the middle of our summer. The fact is that the glorious truth of God made Man for the purpose of redeeming his beloved people from the curse of the broken law is a central truth that all true believers always rejoice in. AJ

Knebworth Grace Church

*Preaching the unsearchable
riches of Christ - Ephesians 3:8*

www.knebworthgracechurch.org

*(includes current bulletin and links to our
YouTube Livestream channel)*

Sunday 1st August 2021

10:45 am (GMT+1) Service

Psalm 119:73-80

"Made of God for Redemption"

Traditional worship with hymns, prayer, Bible readings and a sermon based on a passage of the Bible. You are welcome to join us via the internet on our YouTube Livestream.

**Listen to sermons by sovereign
grace preachers at**

www.freegraceradio.com

Reading Psalm 119:73-80

37 tune 542

C Wesley

1 Let earth and heaven combine,
Angels and men agree,
To praise, in songs divine,
The incarnate Deity;
Our God contracted to a span,
Incomprehensibly made man.

2 He laid his glory by,
And wrapped him in our clay;
Unmarked by human eye,
The latent Godhead lay;
Infant of Days he here became,
And bore the loved Immanuel's name.

3 Unsearchable the love
That has the Saviour brought;
The grace is far above
Or man's or angel's thought;
Suffice for us, that God we know,
Our God, was manifest below!

Prayer

Reading **Luke 1:26-55**

Prayer

20 tune 314

I Watts

1 Ere the blue heavens were stretched abroad,
From everlasting was the Word;
With God he was; the Word was God;
And must divinely be adored.

2 By his own power were all things made;
By him supported all things stand;
He is the whole creation's Head,
And angels fly at his command.

3 [Ere sin was born, or Satan fell,
He led the host of morning stars;
(Thy generation who can tell,
Or count the number of thy years?)]

4 But lo! he leaves those heavenly forms;
The Word descends and dwells in clay,
That he may hold converse with worms,
Dressed in such feeble flesh as they.

5 Mortals with joy behold his face,
The eternal Father's only Son;
How full of truth! how full of grace!
When through his eyes the Godhead shone.

6 Blest angels leave their high abode,
To learn new mysteries here, and tell
The loves of our descending God,
The glories of Immanuel.

Sermon

414 tune 834

I Watts

I long for a concert of heavenly praise,
To Jesus, my God, the omnipotent Son!
My soul should awake in harmonious lays,
Could it tell half the wonders that Jesus has done.

2 I'd sing how he left his own mansions of light,
The robes made of glory that dressed him above,
Yet pleased with his journey and swift in his flight;
He came on the pinions of covenant love!

3 Quick down to the place of our distant abode,
He came, we adore him, to raise us on high;
He came to atone the dread justice of God,
And took up a life to be able to die!

4 All hell and its lions stood roaring around;
His flesh and his spirit with malice they tore,
While oceans of sorrow lay pressing him down,
As vast as the burden of guilt which he bore.

5 Fast bound in the chains of imperious death,
The Infinite Captive a prisoner lay;
The Infinite Captain arose from the earth,
And leaped to the hills of ethereal day!

6 Then mention no more of the vengeance of God,
The lions of hell, and their roaring no more;
We lift up our eyes to his shining abode;
Our loudest hosannas his name shall adore!