

REDISCOVERING JOY

Christmas Leads to Easter

March 21, 2010

FBC Port A

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

1. THE RELEVANCE OF CHRISTMAS: God Came to Earth

Php 2:5-6 NLT *You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.*

"... He had always been God by nature ..." (Ph)

John 1:1-3 NLT *In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through Him, and nothing was created except through Him.*

John 8:58 NLT *Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I AM!"*

Col 1:15-16 NLT *Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through Him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see--such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through Him and for Him.*

John 10:30 NLT *"The Father and I are one."*

John 14:9

II. THE REALITY OF CHRISTMAS: God Became Man

Php 2:7-8 NLT *Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form, He humbled Himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.*

"... He became like men and was born a human being" (Amp)

How was Jesus like us?

- He was born like us (Lk. 2:6-7)
- He grew like us (Lk. 2:52)
- He was tempted like us (Heb 4:15)
- He suffered like us (Mt. 26:38)

III. THE REASON FOR CHRISTMAS: Jesus Came to Die

Php 2:8 NLT *He humbled Himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.*

Why did he do it?

1. To Demonstrate God's Love

Rom 5:8 NLT *But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*

Jn. 15:13, Jn. 3:16-17, I Jn. 4:9

2. To Pay for My Sins

1Pet 2:24 NLT *He personally carried our sins in His body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By His wounds you are healed.*

IV. THE RESULT OF CHRISTMAS: JESUS IS LORD

Php 2:9-11 NLT *Therefore, God elevated Him to the place of highest honor and gave Him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

What does it mean to call Jesus "Lord"?

It means that I ...

- Acknowledge:
- Believe:
- Commit:

Rom 10:9 NLT *If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

A man wearing a yellow patterned short-sleeved shirt, blue jeans, and a black baseball cap stands in a lush green field. He has his arms raised in a gesture of joy or praise, with his mouth open as if shouting or singing. The background is a clear blue sky with several blue star-shaped graphics scattered across it. The overall mood is one of happiness and freedom.

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