

The Incarnation – Christmas Day - Gospel of John, chapter 1, verses 1 - 18

The use of technology has been promoted in some quarters as a replacement for gathered worship. However, I find it difficult at times to follow a sermon or talk on the computer; I find my mind is easily sidetracked and I lose the thread of what is being said.

We need to thank the Lord God that He did not try and communicate with the human race by using any kind of external ‘technology’! Yes there were many instances where He spoke through a vision or in a dream – the Old and New Testaments have a number of examples. However, when it came to the means of saving humankind from sin and eternal separation from Himself, He became man!

The First Letter of John makes it absolutely clear! *“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our own eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands about the Word of life,”* (1 John, chapter 1, verse 1)

One of the greatest phrases in the whole of scripture must be *“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us . . .”* the Gospel of John chapter 1, verse 14.

The Lord of life, the One through whom all things were created (see Colossians chapter 1, verses 15 – 20) *“emptied Himself taking the form of a slave”* - *“and was born of a woman”*. (see Philippians chapter 2, verse 7 and Galatians chapter 4, verse 4). The reality of the Incarnation is the “Word” who was God, coming to dwell on this earth. God the creator cares about the physical! He came to earth as a baby - *“Day by day like us he grew”* (Luke chapter 2, verse 52). This is a radical truth in an age where interactions and communication are becoming more and more ‘non-physical’.

The introduction to the reading from the first verses of the Gospel of John at traditional Carol Services is *“St John reveals the mystery of the Incarnation”*. This introduction can of itself be a problem for anyone unfamiliar with basic theology (and for some of us who are supposedly “in the know”!).

For me, it is not a matter of trying to understand the ‘theology’ but rather an act of faith! Hanging on to a belief that through the birth of the Christ Child and His sacrificial death on the cross, sins are forgiven, our relationship with God the Father is restored and we, with all who truly believe and trust in Him, are inheritors of the Kingdom of Heaven.

If you can make time for a few minutes of quietness on Christmas Day I suggest that you read and meditate on John’s Gospel chapter 1, verses 1 – 18 and Colossians chapter 1, verses 15 – 20. These two readings give a taste of what “Christmas” is really about!

With every blessing in our Lord Jesus Christ to you and yours this Christmas time!

*Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new born King!”*

Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)