

Title: Jesus Christ is Come in the Flesh

Text: Galatians 4: 4-7

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The Spirit of God tells the believer through the apostle John, 1 John 4: 1-3, “Beloved, believe not every spirit,” by spirit he means preachers, “but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” Not every preacher is of God. Many are false prophets. How can I know if they are speaking by the Spirit of God? “Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.”

But it appears this time of year that everyone is confessing that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is the time of year designated to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Proposition: Confessing Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is more than merely expressing the fact, it is confessing who he is, why he came, and what he accomplished. So if you will turn to Galatians 4, I want to confess to you this morning that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh.

Galatians 4: 4: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5: To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6: And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7: Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

I. CONFESSING CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH IS CONFESSING THAT CHRIST CAME BY THE ETERNAL APPOINTMENT OF GOD--v4: When the fulness of the time was come,...

This time of year you may hear men argue that Christ was not born December 25. That is true. December 25 is merely the day in which the fact of his birth is, at least, recognized the world over.

Set From Eternity

What is important is that Christ came into this earth, at the time set between God and his Son in the covenant and council of peace in eternity. God does nothing by accident. It is not as some vainly imagine, that God's first plan did not go accordingly therefore he sent Christ into the world. God purposed for his Son to come from eternity. The work which Christ came to accomplish was purposed from eternity. And God purposed the exact time his Son would come.

That lets us know that the fall of Adam in the garden by which he plunged the human race into sin and death was no surprise to God. It was according to God's purpose to glorify his holy name in the salvation of chosen sinners by the work of Christ Jesus his Son. The salvation of God's people is ordered in all things and sure in Christ from all eternity.

Christ is King, Christ's Kingdom is Spiritual

His coming marked the time set when the scepter—the king and kingdom--departed from the earthly kingdom of Israel.

Genesis 49: 10: The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him *shall* the gathering of the people *be*.

Isaiah 9:6: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7: Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

King David and the earthly kingdom of Israel was but a picture and type of Christ the King and of his spiritual kingdom. The wise men came,

Matthew 2: 2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews?

John 1:49: Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

Daniel prophesied of the exact time and of exactly what Christ would accomplish.

Daniel 9:24: Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. 25: Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 26: And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

Habakkuk 2: 3: For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

So Christ came,

Mark 1: 14...preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15: And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Be sure to get this: To preach Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is to preach that the purpose and time was set by God in eternity. Therefore, Christ came “when the fulness of the time was come.”

Brethren, amidst all our failures, isn't it a comfort to know that our God is so absolutely sovereign that “The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand.”. “Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.” (Isaiah 14: 24; 46: 10) Those who declare otherwise are antichrist.

II. TO DECLARE CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH IS TO DECLARE WHO HE IS: CHRIST IS GOD AND MAN IN ONE PERSON--V4: God sent forth his Son, made of a woman...

Jesus is God

What a mystery and manifestation of amazing love. God sent his Son—Jesus Christ is Immanuel, God with us.

John 8:42: Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

1 John 4: 9: 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. 10: Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins...14: And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15: Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

Those who preach that Jesus is not God—one with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit—the third person of the trinity—are not born of God, God does not dwell in them nor them in God. But they are antichrist, denying that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh.

Jesus is Man

Made of a woman is very important. Jesus Christ, unlike any other person, is the Seed of Woman, from Gen 3: 15, meaning he was not of Adam's corrupt seed.

The Lord Jesus was not created as Adam was. And he was not begotten by Adam's seed, as all other men are. He was conceived of the Holy Ghost. He was conceived in the womb of a virgin who had never known a man. Therefore, from conception, the Lord Jesus was holy. He is unlike all other men born of Adam—he was holy in conception, all other men are corrupt, conceived in sin.

Luke 1:35: And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Why Did God Take a Body of Flesh?

God the Son joined his divine nature, with holy human nature. But why? Why was he “made in the likeness of men, made flesh, made of a woman?” Two reasons: to be our High Priest to make reconciliation for the sins of his people and that he might be touched with the feelings of our infirmities.

Hebrews 2:14: Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15: And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 16: For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. 17: Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. [and] 18: For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Hebrews 5: 1: For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: [and] 2: Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.

Christ Our High Priest Made Reconciliation for his People

First, Christ came for the purpose of being our High Priest, to “save his people from our sins.” God the Holy Spirit told Joseph to name him “Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins.” Doing so, Christ manifest the righteousness of God. In Christ crucified we see that God will by no means clear the guilty. In Christ crucified we see how God is just in justifying his people. And we behold that God himself is the Justifier. That he reserves mercy for thousands.

God the Son is Spirit. It was flesh, man that sinned, so he must become a man and have a body in order that he might fulfill the law as a Man, that he might “his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree,” “Without shedding of blood is no remission”, so he took a body that he might have blood to shed. (Hebrews 9: 22) “With his stripes we are healed”, God the Spirit could not bear stripes, so he took a body that he might bear the stripes due to his people in his own body on the tree. (Isaiah 53: 5) “The wages of sin is death”, as God he could not die, so he took a body that he might lay down his life. (Romans 6: 23) Being eternal God, he offered himself through the eternal Spirit so by his one offering, Christ Jesus made eternal satisfaction for the sins of his people—he is the eternal propitiation for his people.

Christ our High Priest was Touched with the Feeling of our Infirmities in his Body on the Tree

Secondly, he was made of a woman that in his body he might be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, that he might be able to succor us in all our sufferings. He “carried our griefs and our sorrows.” Christ was made sin, made guilty before God, by imputation so that God was just to forsake him on the cross. And by that forsaking of God, Christ was touched in his own body on the tree with all the feelings and afflictions—the smiting and bruising and stripes—that comes upon our flesh and our spirit. This touching of his body was not only the feelings of want and persecution of men and trying of Satan when he walked this earth and was nailed to the tree by men. He was touched with the feeling of our infirmities by being forsaken of God on the cross.

Adam’s spiritual death and the deterioration of his physical body, like our body which is dead, was the result of being cut off from the life and light of God like a flower withers when cut off from the light of the sun. The condemnation of hell which Christ put an end to for his people was endured and put an end to when Christ was forsaken of God on the cross.

Scriptural Descriptions of what Christ was Touched With in His Body on the Tree

The Psalms describe it as being touched with extreme suffering and affliction in his own body on the tree, “His moisture turned into the drought of summer”

Psalm 22:14, 15: I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.

Lamentations 3: 1: I *am* the man *that* hath seen affliction by the rod of his wrath. 2: He hath led me, and brought *me into* darkness, but not *into* light. 3: Surely against me is he turned; he turneth his hand *against me* all the day. 4: My flesh and my skin hath he made old; he hath broken my bones. 5: He hath builded against me, and compassed *me* with gall and travail. 6: He hath set me in dark places, as *they that be* dead of old. 7: He hath hedged me about, that I cannot get out: he hath made my chain heavy. 8: Also when I

cry and shout, he shutteth out my prayer. 9: He hath inclosed my ways with hewn stone, he hath made my paths crooked. 10: He *was* unto me *as* a bear lying in wait, *and as* a lion in secret places. 11: He hath turned aside my ways, and pulled me in pieces: he hath made me desolate. 12: He hath bent his bow, and set me as a mark for the arrow. 13: He hath caused the arrows of his quiver to enter into my reins. 14: I was a derision to all my people; *and* their song all the day. 15: He hath filled me with bitterness, he hath made me drunken with wormwood. 16: He hath also broken my teeth with gravel stones, he hath covered me with ashes. 17: And thou hast removed my soul far off from peace: I forgot prosperity. 18: And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the LORD: 19: Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall.

Isaiah 53: 3: He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4: Yet we did esteem him stricken and smitten of God. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him;”

It was for no sin of his own that he was touched in his own body, but for the sins of his people.

The mystery of the cross is that while the sins of his people were imputed to him so that God was just in pouring out his wrath upon our substitute, at the same time, Christ in himself endured it in perfect obedience to God unto death. No guile was found in his mouth. He never in his heart turned rebel against God. He remained like a lamb silent as it is sheared. And from the Fathers side of it all, while God was just to forsake him, at the same time, it pleased the LORD—it made satisfaction to the LORD—to bruise him—“and with his stripes we are healed!” Not the stripes inflicted by men, but the stripes from being forsaken of God. What a mystery of mysteries! What wisdom! What depths of love! What a manifestation of the glory of God!

Now believer, because Christ was touched with the feeling of the very kinds of infirmities which he healed as he walked this earth: feelings we feel by disease, by blindness, by an issue of blood, and so on—he is able to succor his child in all our suffering.

Hebrews 4: 14: Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15: For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16: Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

**III. TO PREACH CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH IS TO PREACH THAT BY HIS ONE OFFERING CHRIST ACCOMPLISHED THE REDEMPTION OF HIS PEOPLE ON THE CROSS--
V4: Made under the law, 5: To redeem them that were under the law,**

Christ Succeeded in Redeeming his People

The children he came to save were under the curse of the broken law, so he was made under the law and made a curse for us.

Galatians 3: 13: Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

As God he gave the law to Adam in the garden of which all his people broke in Adam. As God he gave the law to Moses on Mt. Sinai to shut our mouths and declare us guilty before God. But as the GodMan, he subjected himself to that very law and that very curse.

The precepts of the ten commandments was the heart of his heart. He was holy and righteous in his very nature, not even a thought contrary to the law of God. The law was his heart and his delight. But this one who knew no sin of his own was made a curse for us under the law and forsaken of God.

The condemnation of hell will be being forsaken of God, the worm that never dies, death that never dies. Christ bore that death when he suffered being forsaken of God on the cross. So when he cried “it is finished” and gave up the ghost, it meant the condemnation, the curse, was dead for his people.

Romans 8: 1 says “There is therefore now no condemnation [kat-ak-ree-mah] to them which are in Christ Jesus,” born of his Spirit, because “Christ was made a curse [kat-ar-a] for us.”

Romans 8: 3: For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.

He cursed the curse, condemned the condemnation, made death die for his people, forever. Now the righteousness of the law is fulfilled in us, who are born of his Spirit. The sins of his elect were put away by Christ—our sins past, present and future. We are not trying to fulfill the law, the believer has through faith in Christ who fulfilled it. Being justified the law will never say that there is sin in us but it will always say of the believer, we are righteous. Not because we did anything to make it so, but because Christ has done it all!

IV. TO PREACH CHRIST COME IN THE FLESH IS TO DECLARE THAT BECAUSE CHRIST REDEEMED HIS PEOPLE EACH ONE SHALL BE BORN OF THE SPIRIT--V5: that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Predestinated to the Adoption

God predestinated his children to the adoption before the foundation of the world.

Ephesians 1:5: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6: To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved...

Because Ye Are Sons

It is by the Spirit of his Son that each one whom Christ redeemed is given life and faith whereby we cry to God our Father--v6: **And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.** We do not become the sons of God by believing, But because we are sons God and have been redeemed.

Heirs of God with Christ

By Christ redeeming us, being born of his Spirit, we are sons and heirs of God with Christ--v7: **Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.**

Ephesians 1: 11: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

So I confess to you that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. He came at the time set from eternity. Jesus is God and Man in one person: our High Priest at the right hand of the Father, who knows the feeling of our infirmities. Christ has redeemed his people being made a curse for us. Each one he redeemed are sons and

must be born of his Spirit because our Father's justice demands it. Believer, you are a child of God our Father, an heir of God our Father and joint heirs with Jesus Christ our Righteousness. All of this good news is because Jesus Christ is come in the flesh.

Amen!