

THE GREATEST GIFT TO MAN

Colossians 1:27

Introduction: Everybody loves Christmas as it's the season of giving and receiving. The true spirit most feel about Christmas is not so much the cost of the gift as who the gift is from and that person's ability to give. Usually one gives according to his/her ability.

Now when God, who owns heaven and earth, wants to bestow upon one of His creatures that which is above all other gifts, a gift worthy of its source, a gift worthy of the One who give is, what does God give? He gives Christ, His Son, to be in our human form, forever.

- This is God's supreme gift. Not the pearly gates, nor the golden streets, not Heaven, not even the forgiveness of sin, although all these are gifts from God, too. God bestows countless gifts and then He bestows the supreme gift. God makes us the dwelling place, the house where the nature and person of the Lord Jesus can live.

I. WHO, EXACTLY, IS THIS ONE GOD GIVES THAT IS HIS GREATEST GIFT TO MAN?

- Nothing in heaven is higher, nor all the created things and beings and heavens rolled together.
- It is He of whom Moses and all the prophets wrote. He whom God Almighty spoke of in *Genesis 3* when He told the Serpent what the seed of Woman would do.
- Christ, the Passover Lamb, the one promised to the enslaved Jews in Egypt.
- The Prophet of Destiny at whose feet the world would bow.
- The Golden Child to be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.
- The Shepherd of Israel of whom *Ezekiel* wrote, the one who would gather God's scattered sheep.
- Earth's King of Righteousness described in *Psalms 72*.
- He is more than all this. Everything that God could say to make us understand has been exhausted.
- **That One God has given to us is simply called "CHRIST!"**

II. WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS THIS ONE GIVEN BY GOD?

- Why should any man be made so glorious? Why placed above Abraham or Moses or Melchizedek or Aaron or the Angels? Or that to every knee will eventually bow? Why does this one hold the fate of all men in His hand?
- The answer is so simple you can tell it to a child, yet so profound that no man can understand it.
 - What? Who? Why does He have the place that He has?
 - **This is the God who was before any creature was.** Existing in three Persons:
 - God the Father, God the Eternal Son and God the Eternal Holy Spirit.
 - This second person of God (the Eternal Son) assumed human nature, became one of us.

III. HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?

- How could it be that this eternal God who had no creation, no beginning, no origin, how could it be that He could assume to Himself the nature that He had created for human beings?
 - Simply: **Human nature was originally made in the image of God. "Let us make man in our own image..."**
- The second Person of God can take to Himself human nature which was originally made in His image and still lose nothing of His deity. **Deity cannot gain anything.**
 - What deity did in Jesus, the Eternal Son, was to take our human nature into itself, thus

Jesus retained all His deity and yet was a normal and true man, but didn't have man's old sin nature.

- This is the Man of Glory. That is why He could bruise the devil's head. That is why He can be the Passover Lamb. That is why He can be the Golden Child whose name is Wonderful. That is why He can be the Shepherd of Israel. That is why He can be earth's King of Righteousness. That is why He can be and will be the Lord of Lords of the new heaven and the new earth.

IV. THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

- Christ can enter a regenerated man's nature because man's nature entered God and was taken up to God and united in God in the incarnation. Do you see the real meaning of Christmas now?
- At Christmas God is trying to tell us: *"I honored you above all the angels and seraphim and cherubim and principalities and powers for I did through you what I never did through them. I took your nature to Myself. I took your nature up into the Second Person of the Trinity and united it there forever and ever, world without end.."*
- "HONORED!"** Our human nature has been joined to the nature of God through Jesus Christ and now the divine nature of God can enter our human nature. ***"Christ in you, the hope of glory."*** Not Christ in our head. Not Christ in our side. Not Christ in our bloodstream, but **Christ in our nature.**

V. MAN'S NATURE HAS BEEN REDEEMED

- It is the human nature Jesus came to save. Because Jesus took the nature of man into Himself, He can now give the nature of God back to us. **This is the supreme gift of God to mankind.**
- This is what it means to be a Christian: ***"Christ Jesus in you, the hope of glory."***
- God made believers Christians and in doing so honored us above the angels and seraphim and cherubim and archangels.
- God honored the Christian above Abraham, David, Isaiah, Melchizedek and Aaron. **God honored the Christian by giving His own nature.**

VI. GOD'S NATURE IS NOW IN MAN'S NATURE

- The greatest gift that salvation bestows is the nature of God into the nature of man.
- United to God with our natures. He is ours and all that He has is ours. He is in us and we in Him.
 - Why should the Christian sit around mourning, in poverty, "sucking his/her thumb," afraid?
- The Christian is heir of all things. Everything Almighty God the Father has, we, His children, His household, have and everything that Jesus Christ has, we have.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Christmas!** God loves us and has given us a gift worthy of who God is and what God has. **His own Divine nature!** Who can ever begin to grasp it?
- 2. Honored!** Did you ever think about that? No creature has ever received such honor or ever will again.
- 3. Privileges!** No other creature in heaven or on earth has the God-given privileges we Christians have.
- 4. Reaction - Response:** What should the Christian do? How should the Christian act? Think about it: ***"Christ in you, the hope of glory!"*** **MERRY CHRISTMAS - FROM GOD!**