

A KING IS BORN TO BE A PARADOX

by Anthony Scherffius

With the holidays coming up, many people if not all will be thinking or meditating on the virgin birth. Even those who are not religious may consider Jesus the Christ in some way, shape, or form due to it being everywhere: in the stores, in people's yards as decoration, on the radio in the form of songs and melodies, and more. There are some who never step foot into a church building except maybe once or twice a year, one of those times being around the holidays.

As comforting as this may sound to many, it is actually discouraging for a couple of reasons: The first reason being they only do it because it is tradition - a lot of souls "celebrate" the birth of Christ or even acknowledge His existence during this time because "its what they have always done."

The second reason it is discouraging is because their efforts in memorializing and celebrating is directed on the wrong event of Jesus' life - The only thing we are truly told to memorialize under the Law of liberty (the Christian Law instituted by Jesus) is His body and blood which was shed for all men—His death (Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:26; Matthew 26:26-28; Luke 22:19).

Now we must not misunderstand this line of thinking. It is not wrong to be thankful for the birth of Jesus the Christ. It was, however, fulfillment of prophecy proving Jesus to be the Messiah who would come to save man from here sins at the right time; in fact it was the very first prophecy to ever be

uttered by God Himself (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2). However, His birth was not the focus of God's plans. It was something that had to be fulfilled in order for the plan to come to pass, but the plan, the mystery of the Gospel, was that through Jesus the Gentiles might be one family with the Jews. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us. It is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"—in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. (Galatians 3:13-14). In order for this to happen, Jesus had to die. It is this that God commanded us to remember and memorialize. Further, we are not to remember it once a year as a holiday, we are to do it every first day of the week when we assemble as the Saints to worship our Lord and our God. There a lengthy quote by Dr. Anthony Fortosis, quoted in Prokope, November/December, 1992, p. 4, where he says: "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. The loftiest and most exalted became the embodiment of humility and simplicity. The richest became the poorest that the poor might become rich. He came out of dry ground to become a fruitful vine. He feasted with publicans and sinners that they might not starve in their sin. He starved for 40 days in the wilderness that we might feast on the impeccable Bread of Life.

"He taught us to love our enemies, to do good to those who treat us badly. He emptied Himself that we might be filled. Mighty conquerors with vast armies and terrible weapons have sought in vain to subdue the world. He conquered a vast kingdom with simple weapons of agape. The Lion became the

Lamb that sheep might become shepherds. His heart was broken that He might bind up the broken-hearted. His body was crushed that we might be made whole. We come into the world to live; He came to die. The purest One was called illegitimate, blasphemer, winebibber, glutton and impostor by guilty sinners. The Lord of lords became a lowly servant to serve the pitiful needs of mankind. The Man of Sorrows acquainted with the depths of grief became the joy of the world. He was rejected that we might be accepted. He was bruised that we may be healed. He was condemned that we might be justified. He was judged that we would not be judged. He was deserted for a time by the Father that we might find access to the Father. He died as the innocent One that the guilty might be declared innocent. By grasping life we die; through death we find life. Glory to the Lamb, the Paradox of God."

The purpose of Christ's ministry was to "seek and save that which was lost (Luke 19:9- 10). In order to be successful in this mission, Jesus had to become man and succeed where mankind failed. Yes, His birth is significant and needs to be remembered. However, we must remember everything about Christ and celebrate and memorialize only that which Jesus Himself tells us to. And we are to do it every first day of the week, not once a year. Let us keep these things in mind as we go throughout our life and be thankful for not just Christ's birth, but also for His death.

Grateful in Every Season

Remember in Prayer

Louis Thomas is doing better. He will continue on antibiotics to clear up the infection.

Charlotte Whitt has a follow-up appointment on Monday, 12/8.

Edna Duncan is ill with upper respiratory issues.

Autumn Lowry is not feeling well.

David Tapp's brother-in-law, Steven Coats, is not doing well at all.

Jess Leonard has a doctor's appointment on 12/5.

Remember also:

Melva McManus,
Archie & Nancy Underwood,
Joy Tull, Margrie Holloway,
Debbie Perkins, Judy Mitchell,
Pat & Kelly Beck,
Jeff Elam, Kevin Burnett,
Diane Ewing, Carey Samford,
Samuel & Diana Ramirez

IMPORTANT DATES

December 4- Nursing Home November/December Birthday Party/2:00
December 14- Nursing Home Worship Svc./2:00
December 21- Elder/Deacon Mtg./4:00
December 24- Singing/Devotional
December 31- Singing Night/End of Quarter

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Ladies Mug Exchange & Hot Chocolate Bar December 13th 10:00 a.m. Graham's Home