

CHRISTOLOGY – the doctrine of *Christ*

SOTERIOLOGY – the doctrine of *Salvation*

WE ARE ADOPTED!

Galatians 4:1-7

Three reasons we should marvel at Christ's birth...

I. IT HAPPENED AT A PARTICULAR TIME

1 Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, 2 but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father.

Three reasons we should marvel at Christ's birth...

I. IT HAPPENED AT A PARTICULAR TIME

3 So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world.

Three reasons we should marvel at Christ's birth...

I. IT HAPPENED AT A PARTICULAR TIME

4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son...

GEORGE – *The coming of Jesus Christ into human history was not an accidental happening....Not only was the incarnation the fulfillment of myriads of Old Testament prophecies, but it also was the culmination of a plan devised within the eternal council of the triune God before the creation of the world.*

CALVIN – *The time which had been ordained by the Providence of God was seasonable and fit.... Therefore the right time for the Son of God to be revealed to the world was for God alone to judge and determine.*

Three reasons we should marvel at Christ's birth...

I. IT HAPPENED AT A PARTICULAR TIME

4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son...

1 John 4:14 - the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 8:58 - Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."

John 17:5 - Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

John 5:18 - the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He...was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

Col 2:9 - For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form...

Heb 1:3 - He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature...

GEORGE – God sent His son not just from Galilee to Jerusalem, nor just from the manger to the cross, but all the way from heaven to earth....In sending Jesus, God did not send a substitute or a surrogate. He came Himself.

Three reasons we should marvel at Christ's birth...

I. IT HAPPENED AT A PARTICULAR TIME

II. IT HAPPENED IN A PARTICULAR MANNER

4...born of a woman...

John 1:14 - ...the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us...

(vs error of Catholicism; vs error of Docetism)

Three reasons we should marvel at Christ's birth...

I. IT HAPPENED AT A PARTICULAR TIME

II. IT HAPPENED IN A PARTICULAR MANNER

4...born under the law...

Three reasons we should marvel at Christ's birth...

I. IT HAPPENED AT A PARTICULAR TIME

II. IT HAPPENED IN A PARTICULAR MANNER

III. IT HAPPENED FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE

5 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law...

James 2:10 - whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, (is) guilty of all.

Gal 3:13 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us...

III. IT HAPPENED FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE

A. WE HAVE A NEW IDENTITY

5...that we might receive the adoption as sons...

III. IT HAPPENED FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE

A. WE HAVE A NEW IDENTITY

B. WE HAVE A NEW INTIMACY

6 Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

Mark 14:36 - ...Abba! Father!...remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will.

Rom. 8:15 – But you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”

III. IT HAPPENED FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE

A. WE HAVE A NEW IDENTITY

B. WE HAVE A NEW INTIMACY

C. WE HAVE A NEW SECURITY

7 Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

Rom 8:17 – ...heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.

III. IT HAPPENED FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE

A. WE HAVE A NEW IDENTITY

B. WE HAVE A NEW INTIMACY

C. WE HAVE A NEW SECURITY

*1 Pet 1:3-4 – (We have) an **INHERITANCE** which is **IMPERISHABLE** and **UNDEFILED** and **WILL NOT FADE AWAY**, **RESERVED** in heaven for you, who are **PROTECTED** by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed **IN THE LAST TIME**.*

#1 – We Have a Loving Father

#2 – We Can Trust God

SCHREINER – *If God rules over history, we can trust Him with the particulars of our lives as well. We may agonize about particular sufferings in our lives: health problems, circumstances that are difficult, or the timing of the death of loved ones. Usually we don't understand such hard things. Even though we don't fully grasp why sufferings happen to us, we cling to the promise of God's love for us, and we trust that He will strengthen us for whatever comes our way.*

#1 – We Have a Loving Father

#2 – We Can Trust God

#3 – We Rejoice over Jesus's Future Coming

Rev 19:15-16 - 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."