

THE INCARNATION OF JESUS CHRIST

JOHN 1:14-18

Lighthouse Notes

One of the greatest attributes of the gospel of John is the writer's immense reverence for the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ. John's Prologue describes the profundity of the incarnation of God the Son. There is nothing more awe-inspiring than the reality that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, would dwell among men. Apart from the doctrine of incarnation we have no salvation; we would still be lost in our sins and trespasses. This doctrine is indeed crucial and critical to understanding God's love and redemption of sinners. We could never have come to know God apart from the reality that God the Son became a man.

Four Realities of the Incarnation

1. Jesus joined our humanity (v. 14)

- How would you describe the relationship between the divinity and humanity of Jesus Christ (Heb. 4:15; John 1:18)?
- How does the apostle Paul explain the "equality" of Jesus Christ with God the Father in Philippians 2:3?
- What did Jesus "empty" himself of (Phil. 2:6-8) when he took on human flesh? Explain how Jesus Christ did not forfeit his deity through his becoming a man.
- John reveals that the Word became flesh, while the "flesh" that the apostle Paul speaks of often in Romans 7 and 8 describes the "flesh" (*sarx* in Greek) as "sinful flesh." In fact, the "flesh" is presented four different ways in the book of Romans, one of which represents man's fallen nature. In light of this, how would we explain Jesus's sinless "flesh"? Give a biblical explanation of why the "flesh" of Jesus was not in any way sinful.
- What are the implications of believing or suggesting that the "flesh" of Jesus was not real flesh (Docetism) (1John 4:2-3; 2John 7)?
- Explain the significance of the fact that Jesus would "tabernacle" (or "pitch his tent") with His people (Exodus 25-30).

2. Jesus Displayed God's Glory (v. 14)

- Discuss the meaning of Paul's assertion of the "fullness of the Deity" dwelling in Christ (Col. 1:19 and Col. 2:9).
- Exodus 33: How does God reveal His "glory" to Moses?

3. Jesus shares the bounty of God (v. 15)

- In what way does God share his "grace" with us in and through Christ? Explain how the law was given as an act of grace (Gal. 3:19-25).
- Explain in more detail the "grace upon grace" that John describes in v. 16.
- Since the incarnation of Jesus does not nullify the law, what relationship, according to John, does Jesus have with the law given by God to Moses (v. 16)?

4. Jesus reveals God fully (v. 18)

- If no one has ever seen God, as John writes, how then do we explain Jesus as being fully God (v.18; Col. 1:15; 1John 5:20)? How does the writer describe the ways in which Jesus reveals the glory of God?

Apply: Think about those who need to receive and believe the gospel. Why is the incarnation of Jesus so important? What was the ultimate purpose of the incarnation of Jesus and why should that purpose matter to everyone in this world? Why should the incarnation of Jesus remain important to us as we mature in Christ?