

## CHRISTMAS ACCORDING TO JESUS

### Hebrews 10:4-10

#### I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. We often look at Christmas through the pages of the gospels of Luke or Matthew... last week we looked at Christmas according to the gospel of John.
- b. Today we look at Christmas according to Jesus... what did Jesus say about His birth?
- c. Today I want to look at Jesus's Christmas Affirmation...His Christmas Conversation... our Lord's Christmas Provision.

#### II. JESUS'S CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION-

- a. On several different occasions... Jesus affirmed the miraculous nature of His birth... and the reality of Christmas.
- b. *John 6:35-40 (NKJV) "And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. **For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.** This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."*
- c. The phrase "I have come down from Heaven"... speaks of the preexistence and the incarnation of Jesus.
- d. Before Jesus was born in Bethlehem He was in Heaven...with the angels and Old Testament believers... and in perfect fellowship with God the Father and the Holy Spirit.

- e. But then Jesus left the glories of Heaven... and by the miracle of the incarnation and the virgin birth... He was born into this world as a baby.
- f. Jesus said that the Father sent Him into the world... to do His will.
- g. And what was the Father's will... what was the purpose and mission of Jesus coming into this world?
- h. That all those who believe in Jesus... will be saved from the penalty ... the guilt... the hurt... and the pain of sin... and that all who believe in Him will have a new life... everlasting life.
- i. The fact that the Father sent Jesus into the world... does not mean that Jesus was less God than God the Father... or less God than God the Holy Spirit.
- j. And it does not mean that Jesus stopped being God... when He came down from Heaven into this world.
- k. It does mean that when Jesus came into this world... He willingly laid aside the independent use of His divine power and privileges... and Jesus willingly submitted Himself to the will and authority of the Father.
- l. And, when Jesus came into this world... He willingly submitted Himself to the plan and mission of providing salvation for lost mankind.
- m. And Jesus did that by going to the cross... dying for our sins ... and rising from the dead.
- n. Another passage in which Jesus speaks of His incarnation... and His coming into this world is John 12:44-50.
- o. *John 12:44-50 (NKJV) "Then Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. I have come as a light into the*

*world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”*

- p. *John 18:37 (NKJV) “Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”*

Affirmation

### **III. JESUS’S CHRISTMAS CONVERSATION-**

- a. Hebrews 10 is a remarkable chapter... in this chapter... there is recorded a conversation that Jesus had with God the Father... before Jesus left Heaven to be born in Bethlehem!
- b. The book of Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians... who because they had accepted Jesus Christ as their Messiah, Savior and Lord... were beginning to suffer persecution... from the Roman government ... the Gentiles... and their fellow countrymen... the Jews.
- c. The writer of Hebrews became aware that because of the persecution they were facing...some of these Jewish Christians ... were being tempted to abandon their Christian identification... and to abandon the church.
- d. The writer of Hebrews wrote this book... to strengthen and encourage these believers to stay faithful to Christ and to the church.
- e. The writer assured these believers... that persecution was something that believers in Christ will face in this world.

- f. He also warned his readers that professing Christians... who can forsake their Christians identification and forsake the church... called into question the reality of their salvation.
- g. True Christians cannot lose their salvation... but Christians who forsake Christ and abandon the church... give strong evidence that they were never saved...never born again ... to start with.
- h. The theme of Hebrews is “Jesus is better”... to encourage these Christians... the writer of Hebrews shows how Jesus is the fulfillment and He is better than anything or anyone found in the Old Testament.
- i. The writer of Hebrews showed that it was a mistake for these Jewish Christians to abandon the Christian faith... and go back to being just a Jew.
- j. Because everything in the Jewish faith... everything in the Old Testament ... pointed to and found its fulfillment in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
- k. In Hebrews 10... the writer of Hebrews specifically shows how the sacrifices for sin prescribed in the Old Testament... pointed to Jesus ... and were fulfilled in Jesus.
- l. The Old Testament sacrificial system was temporary... it looked forward to Jesus... it found its fulfillment in Jesus... and the Old Testament sacrificial system ended... when Jesus Christ died on the cross.
- m. That is why we today do not offer Old Testament sacrifices... we don't have to ... they ended and were fulfilled in Christ.
- n. The Old Testament sacrifices for sin...were prescribed by God... and they were accepted by God.

- o. But those sacrifices... only provided a temporary covering for sin... all the sacrifices for sin in the Old Testament looked forward to a greater ... a better ... sacrifice.
- p. The sacrifices in the Old Testament looked forward to the time... when on the cross... Jesus Christ... the Son of God... the Lamb of God... would offer Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world.
- q. The sacrifices offered by truly repentant and faithful Old Testament saints... only covered sin... they were like promissory notes that looked forward to a greater sacrifice.
- r. That greater sacrifice was the death of Jesus on the cross... and when Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world... all those Old Testament sacrificial promissory notes... were paid in full... and the faith of Old Testament believers was honored.
- s. In this chapter... under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit... the writer of Hebrews recorded a conversation that Jesus had with the Father... before Jesus came into this world as a human being.
- t. *Hebrews 10:4-10 (NLT2) “For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. That is why, when Christ came into the world, he said to God, “You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings. But you have given me a body to offer. You were not pleased with burnt offerings or other offerings for sin. Then I said, ‘Look, I have come to do your will, O God— as is written about me in the Scriptures.’” First, Christ said, “You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings or burnt offerings or other offerings for sin, nor were you pleased with them” (though they are required by the law of Moses). Then he said, “Look, I have come to do your will.” He cancels the first covenant in order to put the second into effect. For God’s will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time.”*
- u. Before Jesus came into this world... He affirmed to the Father... His commitment to the mission of providing salvation from sin for the

faithful Old Testament saints who had believed... and providing salvation for those in the future... beyond His sacrifice on the cross... who would believe.

Affirmation... Conversation

#### **IV. JESUS'S CHRISTMAS PROVISION-**

- a. Why would we talk about the cross at Christmas?... because until you understand the cross... you will never understand the cradle.
- b. The reason Jesus was born as a baby in Bethlehem... the reason Jesus came down from Heaven to this earth... was to make salvation for lost mankind possible by His sacrificial death on the cross.
- c. The cradle that Jesus was laid in after He was born... was the first step in the journey that would take Jesus to the cross.
- d. For Jesus to be an acceptable sacrifice for our sins... He had to be sinless and perfect... and He was.
- e. For Jesus to be an acceptable sacrifice for our sins... He had to be willing to take our sins upon Himself and die for us... and He was willing... and He did.
- f. For Jesus to be an acceptable sacrifice for our sins... He had to be able to die.
- g. The sacrifices of the Old Testament taught that the wages of sin is death... for sins to be forgiven and covered... death was required... the shedding of blood was required to pay the penalty of sin.
- h. An Old Testament worshipper would lay their hands on their sacrifice ... signifying the transfer of their sin and guilt to that animal... and then that animal would die... its blood would be shed... to cover and atone for the sin of the sinner.
- i. For Jesus to be an acceptable sacrifice for our sins... He had to be able to die.

- j. As God, Jesus could not die... but as a human being... Jesus could die and He did die on the cross for us.
- k. When Jesus was on the cross... the hands of every human being in the world was laid on His sacred head... our sins were transferred to Him ... and He died... He shed His blood for us.
- l. *2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."*
- m. For you and I to receive the benefit of what Jesus did on the cross... we must be willing to confess our sins... turn from our sins... to believe in who Jesus is... and what He has done for us... and we must be willing to receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior.
- n. Until a person has done that... they will never be able to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

## **V. CONCLUSION-**

- a. Jesus's Christmas Affirmation... His Christmas Conversation... His Christmas Provision.
- b. Do you want a new life?... Do you want to start again?
- c. Have you believed?