

Liberty Commentary December 7, 2009
What think ye of Christ? Whose son is he?

There have been some forty billion people who have lived upon the earth since the beginning of time. Since the events of the Tower of Babel that caused the human race to scatter to the far reaches of the world the human race has become diverse in its culture, language, and religion.

Even though the human race has become diverse in its culture, religion, and language, each human being that has lived on this planet must come to terms with two vital questions that have been the challenge of each generation that has lived upon the earth. We must each determine our purpose of life here on earth and our eternal destiny once this life has ceased. Many people will spend a lifetime searching for the answer to these two questions.

Jesus understood the need to have purpose in our lives as well as assurance of our eternal destiny once this life has ended. Jesus knew how to get right to the heart of the dilemma. In Matthew chapter twenty-two Jesus was engaged in a debate with the Sadducees and Pharisees. Jesus gets right to the heart of the controversy and asks them point blank, “What think ye of Christ? Whose son is he”? The Bible goes on to say that no man could answer him a word. We know from scripture that shortly after this debate the Chief Priests, Sadducees and Pharisees instigated the crucifixion of Christ based upon the false allegation of blasphemy because Jesus said he was the Son of God.

During this Christmas season the world will answer these very same questions that have been asked for the past two thousand years, “what think ye of Christ? Whose son is he”? Some will refuse to acknowledge Christmas because they do not believe that Jesus is the Son of God. Some will choose to ignore the celebration of Christ’s birthday and choose rather to elevate Santa Clause. Others will say they believe that Jesus is the Christ, but will spend the Christmas holiday in revelry and excess without any thought of

the significance of Christ's birth and how He wants to have a personal relationship with each of us.

Who is Jesus Christ? Where did He come from? Where is He now? Does He really have a plan and purpose for my life? The Bible answers each of these questions. John Chapter one tells us that "in the beginning was the Word (Jesus) and the Word (Jesus) was with God and the Word (Jesus) was God". Matthew and Luke give us the record of the birth of Christ, but John goes back before the birth and reveals to us that Jesus existed in the beginning when the world was created. Jesus existed before He was born. Not only is Jesus the Son of God, He is God.

Jesus was actually quite busy with his divine responsibilities long before he ever came to earth to take on human flesh. Jesus was involved in creating the universe. John tells us in chapter one that "All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made". The Apostle Paul confirms the same thing as John when he writes in Colossians chapter one, "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him". Jesus was involved in the creation of everything from electrons to galaxies and from angels to Adam.

John tells us in chapter one that "the Word (Jesus) was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth". Jesus Christ set aside his glory and fellowship with the Father to come to this hostile world so that He could redeem man unto himself through His death on the cross. The Apostle Paul writes in Romans chapter five, "For as by one mans (Adam) disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one (Jesus Christ) shall many be made righteous".

At age thirty Jesus began his public ministry. Jesus performed some thirty-seven recorded miracles that gave proof that Jesus was

the Son of God. Even though Jesus performed miracles, many of the Jews did not accept Him as the Messiah and eventually they were successful in having Pilate condemn the Savior to death.

After the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Jesus spent forty days giving final instructions to the disciples. At the end of the forty days Jesus was taken up to heaven where He now is seated on the right hand of the Father.

As the disciples were standing gazing up into heaven as Jesus was ascending up into heaven, two angels appeared to the disciples and said to them, “why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven”. Ever since the day Jesus ascended up to heaven we have been waiting and watching for the promised return of Christ. The instructions that Christ left for us are that we are to get ready for his return. First Thessalonians chapter four tells us, “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord”.

Jesus was born to die so that we could have eternal life. Jesus says, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly”. Jesus came not only to provide a way for us to receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life, but He also came to give us purpose in our life while we live here on earth.

May we each be mindful this Christmas season that Jesus was no ordinary baby. He was God in the flesh that willingly set aside all of the glory of Heaven to come to this earth and lay down his life for us so that all who will receive Him into their lives by faith shall have eternal life.

Merry Christmas!

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