

Sunday, December 18, 2016—Magnifying the Meaning of the Manger

Introduction

- People have all kinds of ideas about Christmas. What is that we celebrate this time of year?
 - The birth of Jesus—he wasn't really born on December 25.
- I chose to celebrate the incarnation of Christ. The fact that God was made flesh and dwelt among us. Why because if the cross was the focal point of all human history there is no cross with the manger.
- The miracle of the manger provided the blood for our redemption.
- Ephesians 1:7—redemption and forgiveness of sins were purchased by the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Romans 3:24—we are justified and made right with by God through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.
- Luke 1:26-35
- Matthew 1:23—Jesus Christ was Emmanuel, God with us. The Son of God became one of the sons of men so that the sons of men could become the sons of God.

Christ our Kinsman Redeemer

- Leviticus 25:25-27—note the following three requirements.
 - Kin to the man in trouble.
 - Able to redeem.
 - Willing to pay the price.
- *Kin to the man in trouble*—who was in trouble in this case? The entire human race. How is God going to provide redemption for flesh and blood? He is going to have to become our kin and in flesh himself in a human body.
 - Hebrews 2:14
 - Philippians 2:5-8—the justice of God required that Christ be our next of kin. Through the incarnation, God took upon himself human flesh so that he could function as a redeemer for mankind.

- *Able to redeem*—in order to function as the kinsman redeemer one had to be uncompromised by the predicament he was trying to rectify. Since the Lord Jesus Christ came to redeem us from our sins he had to be uncompromised by sin to satisfy the offended justice of God against sin.
 - Romans 8:3
 - II Corinthians 5:21—Christ had to be uncompromised in his redeeming. To redeem Christ had to be uncompromised by sin.
 - Romans 5:12—all men that are born of a human father are sinners just like Adam. Jesus Christ did not have an earthly father. Without the Virgin Birth, there could be no redemption.
- *Willing to pay the price*—Jesus Christ was willing based the great love wherewith he loved to pay the price for our sins and stratify the offended justice of God on our behalf.
 - Philippians 2:5-8—notice that Christ did this willing with end goal being death.
 - Romans 5:8-10
 - Romans 8:32-39
 - Ephesians 2:1-9

Conclusion

- The incarnation made Christ our next of kin. This was accomplished via the virgin birth so that Christ would not be tainted with the sin of those he was trying to redeem. The Godhead was willing to pay the price, Jesus Christ was the lamb slain from the foundation of the world.
- The manger was the prep work for the cross. You cannot have one without the other.