

Saturday, December 24, 2016—The Heart of Christmas

Introduction

- Last Sunday during our Christmas program we sought to magnify the meaning of the manger by looking at how the incarnation and the virgin birth were both necessary to accomplish our redemption.
- Leviticus 25:25-27—note the following three requirements.
 - *Kin to the man in trouble*—Christ became our next of kin via the incarnation.
 - *Able to redeem*—the virgin birth assured the fact that Christ did not have sin nature and was therefore able to redeem.
 - *Willing to pay the price*—Jesus Christ was willing based the great love wherewith he loved to pay the price on our behalf.
- This morning I would like to consider some additional thoughts related to the incarnation and Christ's work on our behalf as members of the body of Christ living during the dispensation of grace.

The Heart of Christ

- 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.
- Hebrews 2:14
- Philippians 2:5-8
- Luke 2:1-20—through the tiny heart of the infant Christ pumped the blood that would pay the redemption price and stratify the offended justice of God against our sin.

The Heart of Man

- Jeremiah 17:9-10—mankind in his natural state has a heart problem. His heart is desperately wicked.
- Genesis 6:5—“every imagination of the thoughts of is heart was only evil continually.”
- Romans 1:21, 24—the state of a lost man's heart is enmity with God.

- Romans 2:5
- Ephesians 4:18

The Heat of the Believer

- On the basis of the finished work of Christ and his shed blood as the only total complete payment for our sins the believer has undergone a heart transplant. Our core problem has been rectified and changed by the blood of Christ.
- Romans 5:5—“. . . the love of God is shed abroad into our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”
- II Corinthians 1:22—God has given us “the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.”
- II Corinthians 4:3-6—where there used to be blindness and darkness God has shined the light of truth into our hearts.
- Galatians 4:6—the Spirit of God resides within your heart and is crying Abba Father right now as you listen to this message.
- Ephesians 3:17—Christ dwells in our hearts by faith.
- Ephesians 5:19—believers have the capacity to make melody in their hearts unto the Lord.
- Ephesians 6:5-6
- Colossians 3:15-16
- I Timothy 1:5
- II Timothy 2:22

Conclusion

- On the basis of the blood of Christ God almighty performed open heart surgery upon us. He cleaned us up at our very core. He took our sinful vial heart and placed his Spirit within it. Thereby making us alive to life of God and providing us with the capacity to do the will of God from the heart.

- God is not just okay with you judicially he is okay with you personally and practically before him. The miracle of the manger did just provide what was necessary for our redemption it provided for the renovation of our very core.
- Ephesians 1:6—always remember that you “accepted in the beloved.”