

Christmas Day ~ Sunday, December 25, 2016

“From heaven Above ~ The Gift of Glory”

John 1:1-14; Colossians 1:15-20

John’s poetic words about the “Word made flesh, dwelling among us” and Paul picture of Jesus as the “image of the invisible God” interpret for us what we see when we look into the _____–they give a sense of what Christmas looked like from _____ eyes.

glory = Hebrew: *kabod* =

glory = Greek: *doxa* =

Both refer to God’s _____ and _____ worth, substance, or _____.

The word glory is used in the Bible to describe the manifestation of God’s _____; His greatness, power, perfection, beauty, and _____.

4 TRUTHS TO HELP US UNDERSTAND THE DEEPER MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

#1. Jesus, the gift of glory, is God _____ us.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him; and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.” (John 1:1-3)

The picture we have here is of Jesus’ _____ state in that eternal heavenly realm with God.

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him.” (Colossians 1:15-17)

The “Word” and “the image of the invisible God” both tell us that Jesus is the

perfect _____ of who God is. If you want to know what God is like—we need only look to _____.

Before Jesus came to the manger, He existed in _____ as God—He was there from the beginning.

There’s no doubt what Scripture teaches about Jesus—the babe of Bethlehem, whose birth we celebrate this Christmas is God—He is _____ in all things.

#2. Jesus, the gift of glory, is God _____ us.

“..and through Him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through his blood on the cross.” (Colossians 1:20)

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?” (Romans 8:31)

Indeed, Christmas shows us just _____ God is for us—He is for us so much that He chose to _____ for us.

“For God so loved that world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to judge the world; but that the world should be saved through Him.” (John 3:16)

“In Him was life; and the life was the light of the world. And the light shines in the darkness; and the darkness did not comprehend it.” (John 1:5)

Jesus, the light of the _____, came to _____ upon us.

The fact that He left His throne of glory testifies to the fact that He _____ for us. He didn’t wait for us to come to Him—He _____ us first—He came to us.

“We love because God first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

#3. Jesus, the gift of glory, is God _____ us.

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

In the _____, Jesus _____ Himself, clothed Himself with human flesh, and came to live among us—He has redeemed us, and we can have fullness of life because He is with us.

“And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.” (Colossians 2:6)

“And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.’ Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which translated means, ‘God with us.’” (Matthew 1:21-23)

This is the great truth of the incarnation—God has come to be one of _____.

“He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human form.” (Philippians 2:7)

Jesus _____ Himself by laying aside His _____ and coming to earth to walk among us—the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

God isn’t far away—He’s not some _____ judge way up there, looking down on us. He didn’t just create the world and _____. Despite what we might think or feel—we’re not forsaken, and we’re not alone because our God is _____. He is right _____, right now

#4. Jesus, the gift of glory, is God _____ and _____ us.

“He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came unto His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:10-13)

“You yourselves are a case study of what he does. At one time you all had your backs turned to God, thinking rebellious thoughts of him, giving him trouble every chance you got. But now, by giving himself completely at the Cross, actually dying for you, Christ brought you over to God's side and put your lives together, whole and holy in his presence.” (Colossians 1:21)

By dying for us, Jesus has _____ us to God, and has made us holy and blameless before Him.

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.” (Galatians 2:19)

The Jesus whose birth we celebrate this Christmas wants to _____ in us, to enable us to live our lives to the _____—to be everything that God created us to be; and to live out that special _____ that God has for each of us.



Christmas is God’s invitation to us that says; “You wouldn’t come to me, so I’ll come to you. I’ll live as one of you; I’ll eat as one of you, sleep as one of you, even die as one of you...Will you see? Will you believe and receive my love?”

How will you respond this Christmas?

Notes: