

GOD CAME NEAR -THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE (PART 1)

1 John 1:1-10 (December 22, 2024)

...you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. **4** We write this to make our joy complete. **5** This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. **6** If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. **7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. **8** If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

I. THE LIFE APPEARED (ITS SELF-REVELATION).

1. The Life eternally existent. "That which was from the beginning."

2. The Life was manifested in time. "The Life was manifested" (v2)

3. The Life personally verified. "We have seen, tasted, handled."

4. The Life thus verified is authoritatively declared. "That which we have seen ... declare we unto you."

5. The Life authoritatively declared with a definite aim:

Fellowship and Joy

II. THE LIFE DELIVERED THE MESSAGE.

1. What the message is:

- (1) Whom it concerns - God
- (2) What does it tell us about God?
 - a. Positively: God is Light - Knowledge and Purity
 - b. Negatively: No darkness at all

2. How the message came:

"We have heard from him..."

3. How the message reaches us:

"We announce unto you" - through the sharing of the message with others

1 Corinthians 1:21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

4. How does the message bear (have an impact) upon us?

- (1) God wants us to know who and what He is.
- (2) We come to know God not by our attempt to search out Him but by hearing the message He sent to man.
- (3) God Himself brought the message. He is the direct source. The authority of the message is verified.
- (4) The purpose of the message is not the satisfaction of our curiosity but our fellowship with God that both comes from / results our obedience to Him.
- (5) The ultimate result of hearing the message is the eternal life of knowing God and His Son personally and intimately.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What does it tell us about God that God is Light?
2. What might be some of the reasons that human beings are not able to know God by their own ideas apart from God's self-revelation?
3. The Bible says that God has used Jesus' followers' foolish preaching to save those who believe. Why do you think He chose to use preaching (message sharing) as the main tool to save us?
4. What are the purposes of Christmas (the Incarnation - Jesus became a man to dwell among humanity) according to 1 John 1:1-10?

I AM INTERESTED IN TAKING A CLASS FOR MY SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

- () Membership 101
- () Maturity 201
- () Ministry 301
- () Mission/Evangelism 401

OTHER CLASSES

- () Foundations for basic Christian doctrines
- () Fresh Start for starting my faith in Christ
- () How to do daily Quiet Time with God

NEED TO TALK TO A PASTOR?

- () I would like to talk with a pastor to understand the biblical view on a subject.
- () I would like to know what it means to be a member of MBF (NVCCC)

ANY OTHER QUESTION? LET US KNOW, PLEASE.
