

Without incarnation there is no Christmas

TIM PURCELL | DECEMBER 16, 2017

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made ... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us (John 1:1-3, 14).

I admit: the incarnation is something that absolutely blows my mind! God becoming flesh, fully human, fully divine. Not one or the other, not either/or—both/and.

John says that “through him all things were made.” Picture the nativity scene through that lens, and it will blow your mind. God created the wood for his own manger. He created the hay that lined the manger. He even created his own mother and, yet, he depended on her for his very existence. How can we, as finite humans, get our minds around that? Martin Luther must have struggled with those kinds of thoughts as well, because he wrote in one of his hymns, “He whom the world could not enwrap, yonder lies in Mary’s lap.”

Leith Anderson, president of the NAE (National Association of Evangelicals), told of visiting Manila, the capital of the Philippines, and being taken to, of all places, the Manila garbage dump. To his amazement, tens of thousands of people made their homes on that dump site. They had constructed homes out of materials other people had thrown away and every day they sent their children out to scour the dump looking for food. He was told that many people were actually born in the dump, grew up and lived their entire lives there without ever going anywhere else.

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But there were also Americans who lived on the garbage dump. They were missionaries who chose to leave the comfort and safety of the U.S. to communicate the love of Jesus to people who would otherwise never know the good news of the gospel. It’s incredible that there are people who would leave the comforts we have in our country to live in a garbage dump in another country.

While incredible, it pales in comparison to the journey Jesus made. He came from heaven to earth and took on humanity, knowing full well that his mission would culminate in his sacrificial death on the cross. God with us.

The Apostle John said it best, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” C.S. Lewis also expressed it well, “The Son of God became man to enable men to become the sons of God.”

The incarnation is the whole point of Christmas. May we all remember that as we worship the incarnate God this Christmas.

December 17, 2017

FOCUS Wesleyan Church

The Gift

Sermon Notes:

1. The gift that God gave _____

Romans 6:23

Romans 5:1-2

Acts 13:38-39

Galatians 4:4-5

2 Corinthians 9:15

2. The gift that we give to _____

Psalms 116:12-13

Matthew 2:9-12

3. The gift that we give to _____

Psalms 126:5-6

Reflection: What is one new thing you believe God spoke to you today as a result of worshipping at FOCUS?

The Word of God directs us as we consider what the *next step* is for our lives. What is your next step?

Challenge: This week I will pray for following unsaved friends and/or family members:

Communion at FOCUS

Every Sunday at FOCUS we celebrate the Lord's Table, also known as Communion. We have open communion which means all are invited to receive. We receive communion elements by intinction. Tearing off a small piece of the loaf of bread, dipping it in the communion glass of juice, and then consuming it immediately. Please note, upon your request, we also have gluten free elements for those with gluten and other major food allergies.

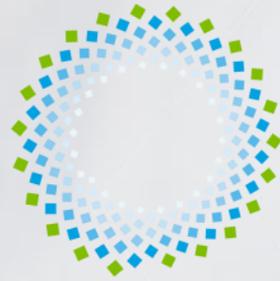
FOCUS Youth Group - Special Christmas Party Tonight Dec. 17, 2017

We are planning to meet tonight 6:30-8:30 PM here at the church in the Upper Room. Pizza will be provided!

Special offering during the month of December for Noah's Ark Orphanage

Consider visiting Promise Kids a Future website to learn how you can be involved:
promisekidsafuture.org

FOCUS Local Church Conference Sunday, Jan. 7, 2018, following 11 AM worship service



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THE MIRACLE OF JESUS

JOHN 1:29