



Sermon Series Notes

"God's Greatest Gift" (Christmas 2010)

Danny Hodges – SE2062

1. Read from Luke 2:1-14 (KJV)

2. This is the gift that God gave to the world, a baby...but not just a baby, the most unique baby ever born. John 3:16.

3. Note Luke 2:7 & 12 ("swaddling clothes"). Note also that verse 12 says that these swaddling clothes were part of the *sign* that this child is the Savior of the world. For years my thoughts were mainly on the fact that the baby Jesus was laid in a manger (a trough used to serve food to animals). But part of the sign was also that they would find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes. What is the significance of that as a sign? Simply put, Jesus was as human as any other human.

I. THE BABY JESUS IS ABSOLUTELY HUMAN

A. A 100% Human being

* There is an ancient belief called docetism which teaches that Jesus body was just an illusion, as was His crucifixion. How one can come to such a belief is beyond my comprehension.

* 1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

* Luke 24: 39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

* Acts 1: 3 After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive.

* Jesus grew up just like we grown up. He knew what it was to be hungry, tired. And he knew poverty (see Luke 2:22-24; Lev.12:8). He experienced pain, sorrow (Isa.53:3). Bullets would not bounce off Jesus...

B. Why Did The Savior Have To Be Human?

1. Required in His priestly calling
- Heb.2:17a; 4:15-16

2. Essential for atonement (redemption)

- Heb.2:17b; 9:11-15, 22-28; 10:3-10
- II Cor.5:21

3. Necessary to help us overcome temptation

- Heb.2:18; Rom.8:3-4
- II Cor.5: 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
- It in no way diminishes the intensity of Jesus' temptation, but Jesus' divine nature helped him in overcoming temptation...

II. THE BABY JESUS IS ABSOLUTELY DIVINE

A. The Evidence

* See Luke 1:26-35

* Isaiah 7: 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

* Matthew 1: 23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" --which means, "God with us."

* Micah 5: 2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

* Isaiah 9: 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

* John 1:1, 14

* Heb.7: 3 Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever.

* Heb.1:3 tells us that He is the essence of the Father...

* Heb.1: 6 And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."...the Magi worshipped Him...

* Heb.1: 8 But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.

* Heb.1: 10 He also says, "In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

* Col.1: 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

* John 1: 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

* John 8: 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." 57 "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" 58 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" 59 At this, they picked up stones to stone him...

* Rom.9: 5 Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

B. What This Means For Us

* Please do not misunderstand what I am about to say. In the same way that Jesus was conceived miraculously by the Holy Spirit, God will miraculously conceive Christ in us...

* II Cor.9: 15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

* John 1:10-12; 3:3

Conclusion

* When you come right down to the bottom line about Christmas, it is all about giving and receiving...

* God is a gift giver...rain on the just & unjust...Acts 17: 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else...James 1: 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows...but the greatest gift God has given is the gift of His Son. Jesus is the gift of Christmas...

* Matthew 9: 2 Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."