

The Incarnation Significance

It's Supposed To Be Repeated Again And Again!

By B. D. Tate

I have presented recently very powerful proof, evidence, and/or argument that Jesus is both God and man. It is the point of His question to the religious rulers (Matt. 22). He asked, ***“If the Messiah is the Son of David, then why does David call him Lord?”*** When Jesus quoted Psalms 110:1 saying, ***“The LORD said to my Lord, ‘sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’”*** He presented to them the dilemma of recognizing the Messiah as God. The problem is created because a ***strict monotheistic*** interpretation of God as being ***singular in person cannot allow for the Messiah to be God***. When Jesus presents Himself again and again as divine in presence, in nature, and in person, our human understanding of God is ***challenged beyond our ability to comprehend it***. How can God be more than singular? How can God the Father be in heaven while God the son is upon the earth? Then the Holy Spirit is also presented in scripture as another comforter, another personage, another divine personality, how can there be *three persons* who are one in *divine substance*? The tension is obvious and I read what summates this issue:

To deny Jesus Christ is human is to deny the testimony found in scripture; to deny that Jesus Christ is divine is to deny the testimony found in scripture. To deny that God is One is to deny the testimony found in scripture; to deny that there are three distinct persons (Father, Son, and Holy

Spirit) who are divine is to deny the testimony found in scripture. **To affirm them all is Christianity!** (BDT Trinity)

When we consider Jesus Christ is God and man we are forced to address the **Trinity** as I did last week. When we consider Jesus Christ is God in the flesh we are forced to address the **Incarnation! The Incarnation is paramount to so much of what the gospel means to us.** God didn't send a *third* party individual as all the prophets were; no He came Himself. This is the highest personal honor that God could bestow upon a human being! What makes mankind so important that God Himself came to bring reconciliation between us? Why not send someone else?

When God chose to come Himself that decision alone made each human being's worth **beyond measure.** We are valued by God Himself; what more do we need to convince us of our worth? When we consider the value of anything it is (generally) determined by the price paid for it, in humanity's case the indicators explode off the charts—there is no containing it.

The Incarnation Determines Our Value!

Our value is determined by one being—God! It is very unfortunate that our world has blinded, distracted, disillusioned, and misled us in our personal worth. We compare ourselves with others; we consider our works, how much we've earned, what others say about us, how much power or influence we have, and none of these matter. Our worth is not based upon any **changeable standard**, it isn't **earned or lost!** Our worth was decided for us before we were even born. Our worth is established purely in God, by God's word, and by God's actions.

Ultimately the Incarnation demonstrates our worth to God. If God had sent a bird, dog, or even a lion, we'd all realize our sub-human worth. If God had sent another human being as in a prophet or special person, we'd all feel substantiated **as a created order**. However, when God came Himself, our value is beyond comprehension! John 3:16 presents it, "**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son**; that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

Jesus puts it another way when He says, Mt 16:26 "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? **Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?** In other words, there is nothing a man can give to God that will purchase His soul or save His soul. We can't make enough, earn enough, do enough, achieve enough, even conquer enough to put us in a position to offer something that God would value enough to purchase our salvation. God's favor, forgiveness, or acceptance cannot be bought, earned, or influenced.

What an astounding truth that God has valued us as the value of His OWN SON! Jesus said this, (John 16:27) "for **the Father Himself loves you**, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God." In giving to the world His only begotten Son **in exchange for our redemption** we know what it takes, costs, and means to God to save us. No wonder the angels desired to look into these things, pondering and amazed over the plan of salvation (1 Pet. 1:12).

Incarnation Addresses Two Major Themes!

Why wouldn't something else satisfy God concerning our reconciliation? Why wouldn't time in purgatory do? Why

wouldn't an apology work? Why such an extreme measure? The answer is also amazing. There are **two major themes** that come to mind.

The First Is The Personal Relationship Issue.

If two people in friendship are separated by an offense a third party may be very helpful in bringing them together but ultimately the only way reconciliation takes place is up to the two of them. For example, a marriage may turn sour and through counseling the two of them may reconcile but it is all up to the two involved to actually make it happen. The relationship between any two people depends upon the two people. To the degree that another person is involved that relationship is hindered. A third party only serves to facilitate communication and help understanding but **when it comes to making things right a third party is helpless.**

The decision to reconcile between friends or marriage partners is completely in their own hands. Likewise, when it comes to God and mankind each of us can only point the other towards God but none of us can actually reconcile someone else to Him. If God sends a third party as he did with prophets who warned, instructed, and taught doctrine about God, there is no personal relationship established. **Christianity is based completely upon a personal relationship with God in Christ.** We are reconciled to God personally because God came Himself to establish it. Salvation is a personal issue with God; no third party can establish a personal relationship with Him for us—each of us must respond individually.

The Second Major Theme Is The Sin Issue.

How can a Holy God commune with sinful man? All other religions set aside this issue as a mystery; however, **Christianity makes it clear how it is accomplished.** According to the created order, the Law of Moses, and the truth that everything in life is sowing and reaping, **the sin issue must be dealt with.** God is reconciling the world to Himself but He is not doing it by turning away from this problem. God isn't ignoring His created order, His laws, and His truth to bring us back to Him in fellowship. God isn't doing this because God **can't do it.** God is truth, God is the foundation of all things; He cannot violate Himself, lie, and fudge, or look the other way so to speak, **His integrity (or Holiness) will not be satisfied.** In other words, **God's justice will never find peace within Himself to ignore the true consequences of actions and decisions we have made.**

Think of times when we have tried to reconcile with others but have not been truthful to ourselves. We compromised our person to make peace with another. When we violate our personal sense of self to overlook an offense we lose integrity. We may act like it is working for a time but eventually the issue will resurface because true justice and peace were not satisfied in our heart. The next time that same offense occurs there will be more involved because the past was not paid for or resolved. God operates completely, comprehensively, and with purity. God cannot and will not compromise Himself.

How Then Does God Reconcile Sinners To Himself?

If sinners pay for their own sin they will be separated from Him eternally. The scripture testifies: "For the wages of sin is death." In this situation God's justice is satisfied towards us; however since God is love He will not find peace within Himself with this outcome. Therefore, God solves the problem by paying for man's sin Himself in Jesus Christ's offering on the cross. Jesus pays for the sins of the world past, present, and future satisfying God's justice towards us. Then in rising from the dead, Jesus offers us salvation to all that repent, turn from their self rule, and surrender to God's plan of redemption. God's love is satisfied in all that come to Him in Christ being born again and made right with God. The cross of Christ does two things it satisfies judgment and justice, and in the resurrection satisfies in those who make peace in Him, God's love and mercy. Psalms 85:10 "**Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed.**"

Incarnation Brings Peace In God Concerning Us!

The Incarnation therefore accomplishes what nothing else can. It brings God's love and mercy together with His judgment and justice. The scripture again and again testifies that Jesus Christ brings about peace between God and man with truth, righteousness, justice, and mercy forever! There is no compromise everything is accounted for, nothing is overlooked, and all things are reconciled in God on our behalf! The Incarnation is amazing! Further, we can understand this; see it laid out before us, because God has made the way of peace with Him clear. This isn't vague or some mystery to be accepted without evidence or reason.

Jesus Christ became a real person, lived, taught, performed a multitude of signs, wonders, and miracles, and then offered Himself on the cross as a ransom for many! Jesus Christ rose from the dead and was seen by over five hundred believers at one time. The fact that Christianity has flourished and changed the then known world despite all out persecution from the Jewish leaders and the Roman Empire should serve as amazing truth to its message—Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior!

The Incarnation Is Like No Other Religious Event In History.

Although many religious leaders, kings, pharaohs, and military conquerors have claimed to be God on earth, none of them claimed to have come to serve us by dying on the cross for our sins. None of them have offered even the slightest effort of reconciling us to God in establishing *a personal relationship with Him*. None of them proved they were sent by God with signs, wonders, and miracles. Finally, none of them fulfilled nearly three hundred prophecies predicting their coming, birth, life events, teaching, miracles, suffering, death, and resurrection as Jesus did. In truth, no other religion has anything to offer in comparison to the powerful testimony found in the Bible concerning Jesus Christ.

Understanding the Incarnation: It's our Example!

When the Son of God came He put on human life (John 1:1); He became the God/Man. In his role He is the only mediator between God and man (I Tim. 2:5). Jesus was His human name and being the Christ meant He was the anointed One predicted to come in fulfillment of God's salvation plan from the foundation of the

world (Matt. 25:24). When He came this passage tells us ***in what way or manifestation he did it: Phil. 2:5-8***

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
6 who, **being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,**
7 **but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.**
8 **And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death, even the death of the cross.***

What this means is that the divine **Son laid aside His own powers** to live and operate only in ways that are available to us. At no time while in his ministry on earth did he revert back or fall back or access his divinity. At all times he lived as one of us. The difference between us and Christ was that he was tempted in all ways like one of us but without sin (Heb. 4:15). The difference is that Christ walked in full grace and the power of the Holy Spirit (John 1:14). The gospels record and His words testify as follows:

John 8:28 Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and **that I do nothing of Myself**; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.

John 10:38 "but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe **the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me**, and I in Him."

John 14:10 "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? **The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.**

Many have taught that the signs, wonders and miracles of Christ were because he was divine but that is not what He testified to. Second, that all of **these pointed** to His divinity and attested to His **Messiahnic ministry**. The truth is these signs, wonders, and miracles showed us what God had intended for us and **attested that Jesus is the Messiah to become the Substitutionary Sacrifice for us**. Jesus was our substitute to pay our debt that we couldn't pay.

Consider What A Substitute Is:

When in baseball a pitcher is substituted for, they don't bring in a dog or cat, nor do they allow *Superman* to take the mound! A substitute is one that is just like the first. In any game abiding by the rules is what makes the game what it is. **The Incarnation then is just like anyone of us playing any game**. We incarnate ourselves into the rules of the game and play. Likewise **Jesus came to play by the rules** of what it meant to be a human being. Jesus played the game fully, completely, legitimately, in other words He never cheated even when He was dying on the cross! When we play any game, all of us have abilities beyond what the rules of the game call for, if we avail ourselves of those abilities at any time during a game we are cheating! Jesus came to be one of us to substitute for us on the cross; **then in turn became our example of how we are to live our lives!**

John 13:15 “**For I have given you an example**, that you should do as I have done to you.

1Pe 2:21 **For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example**, that you should follow His steps:

This is the meaning of this passage that Jesus did among us what *no other human being* did and **He did it without cheating!**

John 15:24 “If I had not done among them the works which **no one else did**, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father.

The Ultimate Greater Purpose Of The Incarnation!

As **awesome as the Incarnation is its significance** takes an even ***greater purpose*** in the life of believers! The whole purpose of the **Incarnation** didn't end when Christ ascended into heaven and sat on the throne at the right hand of God. Jesus said that when He goes He will send *another comforter* just like Him to us—the Holy Spirit (John 14:16). This event was the culmination of God's design to place the Incarnation in all of us! This is the mystery revealed that God's desire, plan, and predestination of every human being was for Christ to dwell in us!

Col 1:27 “To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this **mystery** among the Gentiles; **which is Christ in you**, the hope of glory:”

God wasn't just saving a people for Himself as one might save cattle, or some class of creation; the whole picture is astounding! God intended to establish sons and daughters in the very image of Christ!

Ro 8:29 “For whom He foreknew, **He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

God's plan of Incarnation was to reveal Himself in all of us just as He was in Christ! We are no longer mere men but temples of the Holy Spirit. We are made ONE in Spirit and purpose in Him—being made joint heirs with Christ. We have been elevated to the highest level of being by becoming the vessels of Christ Jesus. We are containers of the Most High God! Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world! Jesus said it this way: “Most assuredly, he who believes in me will do the **VERY works that I do**, and greater works shall he do because I go to the Father.” (John 14:12)

Many have taught that this outstanding truth will happen when we die or at Jesus' **Second Coming** when the Kingdom is established on earth. When we put off the reality of the Incarnation purpose to some future state, we by our own unbelief, thwart God's Great Commission to us in our lives now. Satan and the demonic have won a great victory in getting us to put off this great astounding truth that God has made us just like Jesus now!

I John 4:17 “Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: **because as he is, so are we in this world.**

Consider also that the Great Commission from Matthew's gospel says this

(Matt. 28:20) “**Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you**: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.”

We won't need to do *the very works of Christ* in the kingdom of heaven because the curse will no longer be present, sin nature will be removed, and God's will is done. We need the gifts of the Holy Spirit to operate now through us to address the curse, to overcome sin nature, and to accomplish God's will on earth AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. Certainly we can see that Jesus commissioned the apostles to teach the disciples (us) to observe and do all things whatsoever I have commanded you...what are some of those things?

Mt 10:8 **“Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils:** freely ye have received, freely give.”

Lu 9:2 “And he sent them to **preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.**

Lu 10:9 **“And heal the sick that are therein,** and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

We must reverse our understanding in regards to putting off the supernatural works and life of Christ in us to the future and embrace it for now. We must be convinced and established in His grace accepting the full commission, the full understanding, and exercising the full authority we've been given.

Lu 9:1 “Then He called His twelve disciples together and **gave them power** and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases.”

Lu 10:19 **Behold, I give unto you power** to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

It's Supposed To Be Repeated Again And Again!

The incarnation then isn't a onetime event that took place two thousand years ago in Christ Jesus but something that was to manifest in all the redeemed! Jesus said he was like a seed that was planted and when it germinates, sprouts, and produces fruit it multiplies itself one hundred fold!

John 12:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, **it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.**

The Incarnation therefore is meant to show us what we were supposed to have, what we are now, and what we should be doing. Jesus came to be one us to show us what we are in Him. Consider the following "**Just As**" statements about Jesus so also are we...

- 1) Just as **Jesus was sent** so we are sent...(John 17:18)
- 2) Just as the Father and the Son are so we are **one** with God...(John 17:21)
- 3) Just as **the Father was in the Son** so the Father is in us...(John 17:22)
- 4) Just as the Father has sent Jesus, **so also Jesus sends us**...(John 20:21)
- 5) Just as **the Jesus was led by the Spirit** so also are we...(Romans 8:14)
- 6) Just as **Paul imitated Christ in every way so also are we**...(I Cor. 11:1)
- 7) **Just as we received Christ** in salvation so also are we to walk...(Col. 2:6)
- 8) Just as **Christ forgave so also are we to forgive**...(Col. 3:13)

- 9) Just as **Christ spoke the oracles of God so also are we...**(I Pet. 4:11)
- 10) Just as **Christ walked & abided in the Father** so also are we to walk & abide...(I John 2:6)
- 11) Just as **Jesus is righteous so also are we made righteous...**(I John 3:7)
- 12) Just as **Jesus walked in health & prosperity** so also are we to walk in health & prosperity...(3 John 1:2)

Conclusion:

We are to know and be fully persuaded that we are a ***new man in Christ Jesus*** to fulfill the **Incarnation of God** in us! We are to remove any doubts that remain of God's intention for His sons and daughters to operate just as Jesus did (John 14:12). We are His hands, His feet, His body; we are the body of Christ! It is our responsibility and response to what Jesus has done in God's grace for us to realize this and begin to glorify God by doing the same things...We must examine our heart through the work of the Holy Spirit to see if there are any weeds of unbelief or weeds of doubt...to the degree that we are not on board with this we are being stolen from and the **Great Incarnation Significance is being hindered!**

We must understand that this is ***revelation knowledge*** that comes through the Holy Spirit concerning the Word of God on our behalf and not from sense knowledge...**this means we will not perceive this truth through our senses or feelings...**We understand this by the Word of God as fact!

We must implant, infuse, and fill our hearts and minds so that our visions and dreams include our lives doing the same things

(becoming Christ Incarnate to the World!)...we must use our imaginations to see ourselves doing the same things, by the same Spirit, for the same reasons, for the same purposes...Amen.