

Sunday, December 16, 2012—Christams Program—The Carols of Christmas: How the Songs of the Season Leave People Without Excuse

Introduction

- Everywhere you go this time of year you hear the songs of the Season (Christian Radio, Star 105.7). Sure you have your secular Christmas songs about Santa, Frosty, Jingle Bells, Deck the Halls, etc but you also have the great carols of Christmas many of which we just sang.
- A few years ago while shopping for groceries at Meijer between Thanksgiving and Christmas I made it a point to pay attention to what songs were being played as well as how people seemed to be reacting to the songs. The first thing that I noticed was that many I would say at least half of the songs played were Christmas Carols with religious themes. I also noticed that many of the people either consciously or subconsciously were singing alone or humming the tunes as they did their shopping.
- This gave me a sermon idea or perhaps a series which I have never done anything with until today. I believe that there is enough doctrine contained within many of these carols to leave those that sing them without excuse.
- This morning I just want to consider a couple lines from only a few songs to demonstrate my point. We want to look at only subjects this morning 1) the advent, birth or identity of the Child in the manger, 2) the atoning work of Christ on the cross for our sins.

Advent

- *Hark! The Herald Angles Sing* was written in the 1700s by a combination of John Wesley, George Whitefield, and others according to the Hymnal. Please consider the 2nd verse:
 - “Christ by highest heav’n adored: Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, off-spring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate Diety,
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.”
- *O Come, All Ye Faithful* also clearly indefinites who Jesus Christ was. Please consider the 6th verse:
 - “Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!”
- The words found in these two songs summarize much about who Jesus Christ is and why we celebrate Christmas.
- “Late in time behold him come, off-spring of the Virgin’s womb.”

- Galatians 4:4—“when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son made of a woman. . .” Jesus Christ was born at precisely the correct time in the correct manner (virgin born) according to prophecy.
- Isaiah 7:14—a virgin with Child was supposed to have been a sign to the nation of Israel.
- Luke 1:30-35—Mary was a virgin just as the prophet had foretold. It was the Holy Spirit that caused Jesus to be conceived.
- “Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate Diety,” “Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!”
 - Micah 5:2—Jesus Christ was the eternally existing second member of the God.
 - John 1:1-2, 14—the Word that was with God and Was God in the beginning became flesh and dwelt among us.
 - Philippians 2:5-7—Jesus Christ the eternal son of God left his position in glory and made himself of no reputation by taking upon himself the likeness of men.
 - Hebrews 2:14—Jesus Christ was the incarnate Diety. As it says in the song *Mary Did You Know* to look into the face of that baby is the closest anyone has ever come to beholding the face of God.
- “Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.”
 - Matthew 1:21-23—Emmanuel means God with us.
 - Isaiah 7:14—the virgin birth was the channel or the means through which God come become flesh and dwell among us.
- Anyone who sings these lines gives mental assent to who Jesus Christ was.

Atonement

- Consider the 3rd verse of *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*:
 - “Hall the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and Life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.”
- Pay close attention to the words of verse 2 of *What Child Is This?*

- “Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.
Joy, joy the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary!”
- Finally please consider the 4th stanza of *The First Noel*.
 - “Then let us all with one accord sing praises
To our heavenly Lord: that hath made heaven and
Earth of naught, and with His blood mankind hath bought.”
- These lyrics penetrate right to the heart of the true meaning of Christmas. Yes, Jesus Christ was born as a baby. Yes that was a monumental event in world history but he came so that he could:
 - Bear the cross for me and you
 - Be raised from the earth to give us second birth
 - Purchased mankind by shedding his blood upon the cross for our sins.
- Galatians 4:4-5—the reason he came into the world was so that he could redeem us by paying the price.
- Philippians 2:8—Jesus was our substitute. He took the punishment and suffered the wrath of almighty God for us so that we would not have to.
- Colossians 1:14—as *The First Noel* states we have redemption through the blood of Jesus Christ.
- Hebrews 2:9—Jesus tasted death for everyman.

Conclusion

- As this world continues to spiral out of control have you ever given any thought to the real meaning of Christ.
 - The Son of God, became one of the son of men, so that the sons of men might become the Sons of God.
- Won't you please receive the truth gift of Christmas eternal life? If you have never trusted Jesus Christ wont you please so today before its everlasting to late.
- The Carols of Christmas contain enough truth about how Jesus Christ was and why he came to hold those who sing them accountable. If you have already received the free gift of eternal life Jesus Christ I challenge to appreciate afresh or in a new way the carols of our Christ this Christmas season.