

Sunday, December 17, 2017 Fear Not: The Outcome of Christmas

### **Fear and the Birth of Christ**

- Luke 1:30—Mary is explicitly told by Gabriel to “fear not.”
- Matthew 1:20—Joseph is told to “fear not” regarding the potentially scandalous situation with Mary.
- Luke 2:8-10—the angel of the Lord tells the shepherds to “fear not” on account of the good and joyous tidings that he brings.
- The phrase “fear not” occurs 63 times in the King James Bible.
  - Genesis 15:1—is the first occurrence of the phrase.
- Genesis 3:8-10—as a result of their disobedience Adam and Eve experienced something that they had not heretofore experienced, i.e., they were afraid of God. Since Genesis 3 man has lived in fear of God. When God appeared to people in the Bible they were afraid. As a result, mankind has responded in either one of two ways:
  - *Religion*—trying to cover or make up for own short comings through his own works of righteous.
    - Genesis 3:7—Adam’s first action after having his eyes opened was to take steps to conceal his own sin.
  - *Rebellion*—hating the God who created him and taking pleasure in evil and wickedness.
    - Romans 1:18-32—the lost don’t care about the judgement of God.
    - Romans 3:18—a lost man does not fear God in the sense that he does not reverence or respect him.
    - I Corinthians 15:32—this is the attitude of the Athiest.
- Hebrews 2:14-15—through the incarnation the Lord Jesus Christ took upon him “flesh and blood” to deliver humanity who through fear of death was subject to bondage.

### **But God**

- Ephesians 2:1-3—a lost man certainly has reason to fear God. God’s wrath is abiding upon him.

- Ephesians 2:4-9—the remedy for mankind’s religion and rebellion is found in God’s 1) rich mercy, 2) great love, and 3) grace.
- Romans 5:6—when mankind was without strength possessing no power or ability to save himself “Christ died for the ungodly.”
  - Philippians 2:5-8—the reason the Godhead veiled itself in human flesh was to endure the “death of the cross” and “die for the ungodly.”
- Romans 5:8-11
- Romans 4:25—the incarnation of Christ is part of the Godhead’s redemption package. You cannot have Christ’s death for and sins and resurrection for our justification without the incarnation.

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- Romans 8:15—following the logical progression of the book of Romans by the time one gets to Romans 8 the reader will recall that the believing sinner has already been declared to be justified and has peace with God.
- Paul is the only Biblical writer to speak about “adoption” (*huiiothesia* the Greek word occurs five times in the New Testament).
- The Greek word *huiiothesia* is a compound word, *huiio-thesia*:
  - *Huios*—son come of age
  - *Thesia*—a placing, or setting a person or thing in its place
- In his commentary *Romans: Verse by Verse*, William R. Newell states the following regarding the Greek word *huiiothesia* rendered “adoption” in the King James Bible.
  - In earthly affairs, “adoption” is the term applied to the selection as child and heir of one not born of us; and the execution of legal papers making such child our own, inheriting legal rights, etc. . . . But the word *huios* means, a child come of age; no longer “as a servant” (Galatians 4:7). And *huiiothesia* means God’s recognizing them in that position! . . . because we are already adult sons (*huiioi*), God has given us a spirit of adult-sonship! No Jew called God “Father,” or “Abba”; but “Jehovah.” (Indeed) fearfulness, even prevented, generally, the use by the Jews of God’s memorial-name—Jehovah—for that nation: they called Him Adonai—“Lord.” (Newell, 217-218)
- Galatians 4:4-7—not only do we not need to fear God anymore, but God is friendly and close to us like a father to his children.

- II Timothy 1:7—that fear we often feel is not from God. It is from your flesh’s rebellion to God’s truth. That causes you to doubt if you really are all the things God declares you to be in his son.
- If you have trusted in Christ we need not fear any judgment from God or man.