

The Ultimate Goal

Sunday, December 13, 2015

I. Faith Surrounding the Birth of Christ, Glorified the Father!

A. Mary and Joseph

Mary and Joseph were entrusted with the truth that they were blessed to care for the Savior. They accepted that truth with faith. Such faith brings glory to God! (Luke 1: 26 – 35 & 38)

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.

30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.

32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.

33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

(Matthew 1: 18 – 25)

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

21 And she will bring forth a Son, & you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,

25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

B. The Shepherds Praise God for the Angelic News!

The Shepherds were faithful to believe and worship the Newborn King.

(Luke 2: 8 – 15)

8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

10 Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.”

C. Simeon Praise and Glorify God For His Faithfulness to Send the Messiah

(Luke 2: 21 – 32)

21 And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

22 Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord

23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”),

24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or 2 young pigeons.”

25 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.

27 So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law,

28 he took Him up in his arms and blessed God & said:

29 “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word;

30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation

31 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,

32 A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.”

T.S. The Birth of Christ, the Savior and Redeemer of Mankind Was Not For the Sake of Mankind Alone...

II. ...But the Ultimate Goal of the Birth of Christ Was to Glorify the Father! (II Corinthians 4:6)

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

- ✚ Knowledge of the Glory of God in the Face of Christ
- ✚ Christ is the Light that Shown Out of Darkness
- ✚ Receiving the Light is Receiving Christ Into Our Hearts
- ✚ That We Might Grow in the Knowledge of the Glory of the Father
- ✚ Through the Face (Character) of Christ in Our Lives!

III. Jesus Devoted His Life to Glorifying the Father! Every Believer Should Devote Their Lives to Glorifying Christ!

A. Jesus Desire to Glorify the Father

(John 17:4)

I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

(John 7:18)

He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him.

(John 4:34)

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

B. The Purpose of Christians (i.e. the Body of Christ), is to Glorify God the Father in Christ!

(I Corinthians 10:31)

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

(I Peter 4:11)

If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

(Matthew 5:16)

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Conclusion:

The Ultimate Goal of the Birth of Christ Was To Bring Glory To the Father Through the Body of Christ!

As Believers in Christ,
Let Us Seek to Live Our Lives To
Bring Glory to God the Father!