

12-4-22 2nd Sunday in Advent

Sermon- Call Him Almighty God

Scripture- John 1:1-5, 14, 18, CTW- Reading 663 hymnal

Hymns- to be selected by Nancy Deimler and WDT

Theme- It is said that on Christmas Day, all those years ago, we received the greatest gift ever given...but do we really understand what that is? Today we look at the name "**Almighty God**"...as the one and only God from whom all blessings flow.

I. Do you believe that Jesus is God? That is the question for today' lesson. Does the world believe that, or do they believe that He was like any other son of a father?

I admit that because I was raised in a Church that preached Jesus as the Son of God and Savior of the world it's probably easier for me to believe than it is for someone who has never been taught anything about God, Christ and the Bible.

A. It's hard to convince some people the truth of all truths! Everything starts with a faith in the **living God**. If you can't convince a person there is a **living God** who created the heavens and the earth, then it's pretty hard to convince them that the message of the Bible about Jesus is true.

ILL.- A Preacher said, "I came to Christ as a young boy. I did not understand all about the plan of salvation. One does not have to understand it, he has only to stand on it. I do not understand all about electricity, but I do not intend to sit around in the dark until I do!"

II. We must look at the attributes of Christ as God...By What He is described as in Scripture.

ILL.- A burglar broke into a home and was looking around. He heard a soft voice say, "Jesus is watching you." Thinking it was just his imagination, he continued his search. Again the voice said "Jesus is watching you." He turned his flashlight around and saw a parrot in a cage.

He asked the parrot if he was the one talking and the parrot said, "yes." He asked the parrot what his name was and the parrot said, "Moses."

The burglar asked, "what kind of people would name a parrot Moses?" The parrot said, "**the same kind of people who would name their pit bull Jesus.**"

Who is Jesus? Well, we know He's certainly not a pit bull. Scripture says He was human and yet, God in the flesh.

A. Jesus was both human and divine.

John 1:1-3 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made."

John 1:14 "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

How could God do that? How could Jesus be both human and divine? **As the preacher said, "I don't understand it but I live my life in dependence on the truth of it." Do you?**

Some theologian once said "When we get to where we understand everything about God then God will cease to be God." OF COURSE, THAT WILL NEVER HAPPEN! Mankind already thinks He is smarter than God but that is not true.

ILL.- Someone wrote: Not one recognized religious leader—as Moses, Buddha, Confucius, Mohammed—ever claimed to be God. Jesus is the only person who has ever convinced a great portion of the world that He is God.

This claim, that Jesus is God himself, can either be true or false. If false, Jesus either knew His claims were false and He lied, or He was deluded and a lunatic. If true then mankind has been given the greatest Christmas present ever, with Jesus' birth!

B. If Jesus knowingly lied, he was the world's greatest hypocrite. He would also be the greatest fool, for what person would die for a lie. Think about it...

If Jesus was deluded, how could His precepts help so many people for so long a time? His critics and enemies had nothing but the highest accolades on His character. There is no other choice. Either Jesus is a liar, a lunatic, or He is Lord of all!

ILL.- C.S. Lewis observed, "You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God."

III. Attributes of Christ as God...Observe What He Did

ILL.- God is sitting in heaven when a scientist prays to Him, "God, we don't need you anymore. Science has finally figured out a way to create life out of nothing. In other words, we can now do what you did in the beginning."

"Oh, is that so? Tell me..." replies God.

"Well," says the scientist, "we can take dirt and form it into the likeness of you and breathe life into it, thus creating man."

"Well, that's interesting...show Me." So the scientist bends down to the earth and starts to mold the soil.

God interrupts him saying: "No, no, no..., "Get your own dirt."

A. What did Christ do? Well, for one thing He created Heaven and earth.

Listen very carefully to these famous words of John:

John 1:1-3 "In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word was with God**, and the **Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him** all things were made; **without him nothing was made** that has been made."

Jesus was alongside His Father during the creation process. Again, can I explain exactly how did this happened? **I don't understand how God did it, BUT I STAND ON IT!**

B. But, What did Jesus come to earth to do, besides create man? Look at what leaders of other faiths would tell you:

ILL. - According to an old legend, a man became lost in his travels and wandered into a bed of quicksand.

Confucius saw the man's predicament and said, "It is evident that men should stay out of places such as this."

Next, **Buddha** observed the situation and said, "Let that man's

plight be a lesson to the rest of the world.”

Then **Mohammed** came by and said to the sinking man, “Alas, it is the Will of God.” “In Shallah”.

Finally Jesus appeared. “Take my hand, brother,” He said, “and I will save you.”

Jesus came to save us from the sinking sand of sin! And sin is a quicksand of death to all.

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Titus 3:3-5 “At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the **kindness and love of God our Savior appeared**, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.”

C. At just the right time, Christ appeared in human form to save us. Of course, it wasn’t just His appearance that saved us, **IT WAS HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS!**

And He came to save us, not because we were righteous, not because we were just such good people, but rather because we were sinners and enslaved to our sin. AND THIS INCLUDES EVERY HUMAN PERSON, EVEN BILLY GRAHAM AND MOTHER TERESA.

I Peter 2:24 “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.”

II Corinthians 5:21 "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

By the way, this is the paragraph where Paul says that all Christians are to be actively engaged in a ministry of reconciliation- that is, to convince the world of the true nature of Christ as the one who reconciles us all to the truth of God and the Kingdom...come to Discipling class and you will hear all about that!

Christ traded places with us. He became the slain sinner on the cross when it should have been us!

ILL.- Preacher George W. Truett said, "Joan of Arc was burned at the stake as a witch. As the flames enveloped her she said, 'Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.' **The passport to heaven for all of us** is the name of Jesus." AMEN.

Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father except through Him.

IV. Attributes of Christ as God...What We Owe Him

A. So, what do we owe Jesus? WE OWE HIM EVERYTHING. We owe Him surrender, obedience, faith, attention, and attendance.

Some people are argue against being baptized, as if it means nothing. But it does mean something, because Jesus commanded it. And even Jesus Himself was baptized, although we're not baptized for the same reason.

We owe Christ our very lives, considering what He did for us! He didn't just create us. And He doesn't just provide for our daily needs. He doesn't just watch over us at night. HE BECAME SIN

FOR US! We owe Him a great deal more than we give Him.

II Corinthians 5:9 says: "So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it."

Colossians 3:1-4 "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

B. What should we do for Christ? We should walk with Him daily. We should seek to please Him in all things. We should focus on Him more than we focus on the things of this world. We should be His witnesses. We should rightfully do everything He commands considering what He did for us!

ILL.- Remember The Blind Side movie? Did you see the movie or perhaps read the book? It's a true story about **Michael Oher**, an offensive lineman who played for the Carolina Panthers of the NFL. But prior to this time he was a homeless 18 year old from a broken home.

Eventually, he was taken in by Sean and Leigh Anne Tuohy, a well-to-do couple who helped him fulfill his potential. Recognizing his potential talent as a football player, they **encouraged** him. Living in his new environment, the 18-year-old faces a completely different set of challenges. As a football player and student, Oher works hard and, with the help of his coaches and adopted family, becomes an All-American offensive left tackle.

Can you imagine how indebted Michael Oher must feel toward the Tuohy family? I'm sure he wants to do his very best to make them proud of him and honor them with his life.

But that's nothing in comparison to how indebted we are to Christ! The Tuohy family gave Michael Oher a home, education, and love.

CHRIST GAVE US EVERYTHING, INCLUDING A HOME IN HEAVEN! Christ sacrificed His all for us! WE OWE HIM!

V. Conclusion Tell Me All Your Thoughts on God...

It is good that we should spend time in this Advent season thinking and praying on the true meaning of the birth of Christ in our lives.

Along the way, in the busyness of day-to-day life, we tend to get side-tracked and other worldly things get in the way and captivate our attention and affection...

I wonder sometimes if God doesn't feel this way toward us. I wonder if He doesn't feel like we're abandoning our focus on Him.

We're supposed to love Him above all things, but often, we have fallen in love with this world or the things of this world.

We have a divided devotion. Using this season to come to the realization that Christ is actually the **living presence of Almighty God among us** should help eliminate confusion and clarify our vision...and Lord knows in these days and times we need to be clear on where we stand. Amen? Let us pray...