

Reading through the Bible every year, I save Psalms and the Gospel of Luke for December. I have been meditating a lot on the earthly life of our Lord. His statement "The Son of Man has no place to lay His head" struck me. No house, no possessions except the clothes on His back. And at the end, even those were stripped from Him and gambled away by the soldiers.

2 Corinthians 8:9 says it so perfectly "You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor; so that you, through His poverty, might become rich."

Think about it! Stand amazed at the contrast between what He was from eternity, what He became in time, and what He is now and will be forevermore.

As I thought about His poverty, I began to think of those things He borrowed that were not His. Those things He took for a time and then returned.. a manger at His birth, a donkey at His royal entry, a cross destined for Barabbas (and me!), a tomb belonging to Joseph. And all He borrowed, He returned, all but two things, that is.

Two things He borrowed that He never gives back

First, He took our nature. He robed himself in our flesh and in our form. The incarnation is an everlasting incarnation. When God became man, it was forever! Jesus Christ, God the Son, bears our humanity endlessly glorified in His resurrection. How great His love. How great His sacrifice. How great His identification with us. How great His humility. How great our Savior! (Psalm 2, 40, Philippians 2, Hebrews 1-2 and 10).

Second, He took our sin. He embraced our guilt and shame and punishment. These, too, He takes from us and never returns them. He has taken them away as far as the east is from the west. He, like the scapegoat, took our sins to the wilderness of Calvary and there in a place forsaken+perished for us and forever removed every trace of sin and guilt from our souls.

Everlasting incarnation! Everlasting redemption! Everlasting praise be to our God!

Another Christmas tradition I have practiced now for several years is to write a poem on Christ's incarnation. With this in mind, here is one I wrote on December 2. I hope it will encourage you as you consider Him+(Hebrews 12:3). (If you want copies of past poems, they are on the website www.ronberrus.abwe.org)

Self Check Questions:

1. What is it about Christ's incarnation that most astounds me?
2. What is it about Christ's incarnation that most encourages me?
3. What is it about Christ's incarnation that most strengthens me to keep on keeping on for Him?

For further study: Read through the gospel of John and discover all the places it speaks of Christ being sent by the Father.+ It is a major theme in John's gospel and concludes with Christ sending the Spirit to us and then sending us as the Father sent Him. (17:18; 20:21) (I have found 59 references to send, sent, sends, sending+). How very appropriate at this season of the year as we focus on His coming+and the Father's sending.+

Lord, You are the maker, owner and heir of all creation. Yet you gave it all up to become a servant and die in naked abandonment to make me heir of all you possess. How can this be? How can such love exist for such vile and unworthy creatures? We deserve nothing but Your wrath yet You make us heirs of nothing but Your mercy! O everlasting, incarnate God, we worship You forever and long for the day when every eye shall see and every tongue confess You Lord, God, King and Savior. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.. God with us, God for us, God in us. We bow in Your name, O Most High. Amen

Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you continually. Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4
Ron & Val

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable, changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows, spending our time on eternity, owning nothing yet possessing everything that matters and lasts. We are Pilgrims in Paradox. Welcome to THE JOURNEY.