

CALL to PRAYER -

Pray for closeness in family relationships

Ephesians 1:20-23 - The Incarnation Connection

Intro - Today is Christmas Eve and I have the distinct privilege of unpacking a “present” that is contained within the passage of scripture we just read. It is wrapped and hidden in plain sight, but it is there. This is the traditional time of year when the church talks about the birth of King Jesus. Now our text doesn’t specifically mention the birth of the King, but it does mention the King. The special “*present part*” of the passage is an amazing aspect of the Incarnation (God becoming flesh). When the Infinite God chose to become an infant (when the Eternal King became a child), He willingly entered a vital union with those He came to save. Since Jesus was made like them, He was also inextricably linked to them. Jesus so closely connected Himself to His people that He is now incomplete without His people. If you get nothing else out of this service...if you don’t receive any other gift to open in this season...I hope you can rejoice in “*the present*” that is in the phrase, “...*the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*” Jesus Christ is the Incomparable Christ... there is no one like King Jesus who fills everything in every way. But Jesus Christ is also the Incomplete Christ without the church which He came to love. If you are a Christian this day then I hope you can revel in the intimate connection Christ has with you. If you are not a Christian today, then I pray that this day you will be engrafted into a relationship with the Infinite God who became an infant in order to eternally bond Himself to the sinners He graciously saves.

THE INCOMPARABLE CHRIST

- There is no one like Jesus. He is incomprehensible and incomparable.
 - The verses preceding....praying for us to know God and His salvation better
 - Our text today gives us some truths about God to contemplate.
- Jesus is the Lord of life and death.
 - 1:20
 - Death is a prison that captures us all...none have escaped....except ONE
 - Rev. 1:17-18
 - Christ conquering death is a clear declaration that He is the Lord of life & death
- Jesus was born to be King. Jesus was born to rule.
 - Luke 1:31-33 (conception) Luke 2:11 (birth) Matt. 2:2 (2 years old)
 - Luke 23:3 (trial) Luke 23:38, 42 (crucifixion)
 - Rev. 12:5 (summation)
- Jesus’ reign is not limited to the human realm or the present time.
 - 1:20-21
 - Above all human and angelic authority
 - Above every name Phil. 2:9-11
 - Jesus is a timeless king - “....*in this age an also in the age to come.*”
- Jesus is the King of creation.
 - 1:22 Col. 1:16-17
 - Jesus is called the “last Adam” (1 Cor. 15:45) He is the perfect Adam

- The first Adam was given dominion over the creatures, but he lacked a union...
 - *Not good for the man to be alone.*
- The Last Adam also has dominion... but He also a union.
 - 1:22
 - Jesus was born to have dominion...He was also born to have a union.
 - It is not good for "The Man Christ Jesus" to be alone.

THE INCOMPLETE CHRIST

- I will freely admit that it sounds strange to say that Christ is incomplete.
 - I wouldn't dare say it if the scripture didn't say it...
 - But this is the "present" I told you about ...though it is difficult to unwrap....
Yet, it is as simple as saying that the One with dominion must have a companion.
- Take marriage as an example
 - Adam needed Eve. I need my wife.
 - My kids like to apply a line from the movie Ice Age to me - "*Is she the girl for me? Yes, she is tons of fun and you are no fun at all...she completes you*"
 - Adam looked at Eve and said - *She is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh...*
 - She was taken from Adams side
 - Jesus looks at His church and says, "*She is bone of My bone and flesh of My flesh and for this reason I left the Father to be joined to My bride.*"
 - The church is formed from Christ pierced side.
 - From the broken flesh of Jesus, the Father forms a bride for His Son.
- Jesus is the Head and His church is His body.
 - 1:22-23
 - Jesus has so associated/connected Himself with His church that He is incomplete without her. A Head must be attached to its body.
 - All Christians have a vital connection to Christ.
 - Christ cannot bear to be without us because we are His body.
 - Rejoice Christian, Christ will never leave you or forsake you...
 - He is vitally connected to you and He cannot be without you.
 - The church is the fullness of Christ - 1:23
 - We are why He came, and we complete Him and His mission.
- Lest we think too highly of ourselves while opening this present.....
 - 1:23 "*...the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*"
 - We mustn't forget that the One who came as an infant is the Infinite God
 - *He fills all in all...He fills everything in every way*
 - Jer. 23:24 Is. 66:1 God is omnipresent - He is completely everywhere all the time
 - Jesus became flesh but He is still The Infinite One. Matt. 28:20b
- If you want to open a present this season...then think of these amazing things.
 - *The Incomparable Christ* and *The Incomplete Christ*.
 - The Infinite God took on flesh and became an infant so He could have an intimate connection to sinners He came to redeem and love.
 - The church was formed from His pierced side...His flesh... and is bone of His bone...
 - **The church is the fullness of Him who fills all in all.**