



Series: The Light of Christmas

Passage: Matthew 1

Title: Why God Had to Become a Baby

Speaker: Pastor David Menard, 12/17/2023

Discussion Starter – How has this sermon caused you to reflect on the necessity of God, the Creator of all that is, to enter His creation as a helpless baby, grow as a common man, and suffer death by crucifixion?

Read and Review Isaiah 7:14, 9:2, and 9:6

- 1) What are the two different roles of the promised Messiah described in these verses? What is the significance and necessity of each of these roles?
- 2) God's word clearly predicted the dual nature of the Savior and Messiah in these and other passages of scripture, why was this duality not understood or believed by many of the bible scholars of those times?
 - a) God's word is specific, precise, and infallible. What can you do to study it more carefully and allow the Holy Spirit to instruct you through the details as well as the big picture narratives, and lead you into a closer understanding of the nature, character, and plan of our Father?

Read 2 Timothy 2:11-13

- 3) How does this creed of the early church describe God's mercy as well as His justice?
- 4) Read Hebrews 10:1-14. Do you think that the Old Testament sacrifices provided a just payment for their sin? What was their purpose? Why was the offering of Jesus on the cross different?
- 5) Describe why you think God is unable to simply extend mercy on the guilty. Read (Roman's 3:26) What additional insights does this passage give us about the reason for Jesus' incarnation?
 - b) What did the Apostle's creed mean when it said if we deny Christ He will deny us? What are some areas in your life that you might need to look at where you are still denying Christ?

Read Matthew 1:1-17

- 6) What Old Testament promises of God are confirmed in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus?
- 7) What ungodly or embarrassing stories are associated with some of the names on this list? Who are some of the sinners, misfits, and weirdos? What does this teach us about the family of our Savior?
- 8) In what ways did the Son of God submit Himself to a life of weakness, dependency, poverty, suffering and abuse? How did that qualify and prepare Him as "the Son of Man", Whose sacrifice satisfies the justice of God?
- 9) Read Hebrews 4:14-16. Who can come boldly to the Throne of Grace? Why do we have this access?
 - c) How does knowing that God's justice is fully satisfied in the sacrifice of Christ give you a greater confidence and thankfulness for the standing and adoptive birthright you have as a child of God?