Deeper than Jecember

The Meaning of Christmas in the Incarnation of Christ

"The Mystery of Christmas"

Philippians 2:5-11

3 Glorious truths about the mystery of the incarnation of Christ

1. Jesus is <u>God in the Flesh</u>:
Jesus is the eternal God in His very <u>essence</u> and <u>nature</u>.

(v.6)

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:1-2, 14

"For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;" Colossians 2:9

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

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

Matthew 1:22-23

"The central miracle asserted by Christians is the Incarnation.

They say that God became Man. Every other miracle prepares for this, or exhibits this, or results from this."

-C.S. Lewis

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2. Jesus <u>Emptied Himself</u>:
Jesus subtracted <u>His divine attributes</u> while <u>maintaining His deity</u>
—to be human and die on the cross.

(v.7-8)

- He gave up His heavenly glory—John 17:5: "Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began." Jesus left the splendor of heaven to dwell in the limitations of earth.
- He gave up His divine privileges—Philippians 2:6–7: Though equal with God, He "emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant."
- He gave up His immunity to suffering—Hebrews 2:14–15: He shared in our humanity, even tasting death. He experienced hunger, fatigue, temptation, pain, and ultimately the cross.

"The bottom rung in the ladder from the Throne of God.

Jesus came all the way down to the most despised death of all,
a condemned criminal on the accursed cross."

- A.T. Robertson

"The lower He stoops to save us, the higher we ought to lift Him in our adoring reverence. Blessed be His name, He stoops, and stoops, and stoops, and stoops, and becomes man, He still stoops, and stoops, and stoops lower and deeper yet."

- Charles Spurgeon

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich."

2 Corinthians 8:9

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3. Jesus is <u>Exalted by God</u>:
Jesus' exaltation by God the Father shows all creation that <u>He is Lord of all</u>.
(v.9-11)