

Series: **Christmas 2022**  
Today's Title: **"The Paradox of Christmas"**

December 24, 2022 – *Selected passaged*

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**Objective:** To help people know the powerful reality behind the birth of Jesus.

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As Christians, we believe the Bible – we believe the Christian faith is true – reliable – accurate in all matters of life and faith.

But, when we begin learning and growing in the faith, we soon stumble across what seem to be at first glimpse contradictions.

When we examine them further, we realize they are not contradictions – but they are paradoxes.

*Paradox:* A seemingly absurd or contradictory statement or proposition which, when investigated, may prove to be well founded or true. –*The Oxford Dictionary*

Paradox pic: Social Network

Some of the paradoxes of the Christian faith:

- The Christian life is easy – and very difficult. Matt. 7:4; 11:30
- We have power when we are at our weakest. 2 Cor. 12:9-10
- We should have joy in our trials. James 1:2-4
- To live, we must die to self. Luke 9:23
- Life is futile, and yet we glorify God. Eccl. 1:2, 1 Cor. 10:31
- Jesus, the Prince of Peace, brings conflict. Isaiah 9:6; Matt. 10:34
- We're not to judge – but told to judge rightly. Matt. 7:1; John 7:24

- Classically, the Bible teaches the sovereignty of God and human accountability for our choices. Ps. 115:3; Rom. 14:12

### **Christmas is a spiritual challenge for Christians in our culture.**

We know Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus – yet the culture has a different focus – presents and parties.

This often makes it difficult for Christians to:

- 1) **Focus** on the spiritual significance of Christmas.
- 2) **Understand** the spiritual significance of Christmas.

### **Christmas is also a great paradox – maybe the greatest paradox of Christianity.**

Tonight, I want to spend a few moments where we can sharpen our focus on the birth of Jesus – but also help in our understanding of this holiday – and understand the glory behind the great paradox of Christmas.

### **What is the incredible paradox of Christmas?**

- God is spirit – infinite – wrapped in flesh – the soft and tender skin of a newborn baby boy.
- The Omnipotent – all-powerful – sovereign God who created all things – is a helpless baby in need of His mother’s constant attention.
- A baby who needs help in almost everything, is the One who created all things.

The great paradox of Christmas is the deity of the baby.

It's the helpless and defenseless infant who rules the universe.

The Christmas songs we all love – that make this time of year so special – speak of these great truths.

Hark the Herald Angel's Sing

Offspring of the virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail the incarnate Deity

We 3 Kings

Glorious now behold Him arise  
King and God and Sacrifice

Come Thou Long Expectant Jesus

Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,

**Theologically and historically, Christmas is about the incarnation of God into human flesh.**

- The infinite into a finite body.
- The omnipotent sovereign became a helpless infant.
- The Creator God and Savior of all needs someone to change His diapers.

We miss out on the wonder of Christmas if our primary focus is on presents and parties.

I love presents and parties.

When I leave here tonight, I'm going to a party – and there will be presents.

We all find great joy in giving and receiving presents – and in attending parties with our friends and loved ones.

***But don't let the good – rob you what is greater.***

For the Christian – the greater part of Christmas is the truth behind the baby in the manger.

*The great paradox of the infant who rules over all things and came to save us.*

The greatness of the historical event of God becoming flesh is virtually impossible to fathom in our finite mind.

The Almighty, holy God, because of His great love for you – became human – to reveal God to you – and to be the one and only sacrifice so you could have salvation when you put your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior.

Here are some passages from Scripture that will remind us of the great paradox of this little baby – so needy – so dependent on His mother and others for His survival.

**Isaiah 9:6-7**

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.”

**Luke 1:31-33** – *The angel, Gabriel, speaking to Mary*

“And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus.

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

**Hebrews 1:2-3**

“His (God’s) Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world.

He (Jesus) is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power...”

**Colossians 1:16-17**

“For by Him (Jesus) all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things were created through Him and for Him.

And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”

**1 Timothy 6:14-16**

“...our Lord Jesus Christ...

who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light...

To Him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.”

*Each of those verses is describing the little, dependent, baby in the manger.*

The baby in the manger is supreme over all things and the fullness of God dwells in Him.

This baby is the only hope of the world.

***Not just the ancient world, but our world today – your world.***

The baby in the manger is Almighty God!

O Holy Night

Fall on your knees...

The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger...

Behold your King; before Him lowly bend...

Chains He shall break...

And in His name, all oppression shall cease

Think about the people you know in your life.

How many of them:

- 1) Know the deity of the baby – and
- 2) this truth is forefront in their mind during Christmas?

The Wise Men – they saw a star – they likely had some knowledge passed down from Daniel and his friends of the coming King of Israel.

When they saw the unusual star in the sky – they knew that a King had been born!

They made the long and difficult journey – and costly journey from their home country to where this small child was.

When they finally arrived – we read this.

**Matthew 2:11**

“And going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.”

The wise men brought gifts fit for a King!

We also read of some shepherds – who were shepherding in the hills surrounding Bethlehem (Luke 2:8-21).

On the night Jesus was born, an angel appears and tells them about the birth of this child – a very special child!

**Luke 2:11-12**

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

Then – instantly - an angelic choir appears with them – praising God!

After this angelic choir – the shepherds decided to go and see this baby Jesus – which they did – and after that they couldn't keep their mouths shut!!!

***Do you*** see the great paradox of Christmas?

***Do you*** realize how much greater Christmas is than the wonderful presents and parties which tend to occupy our affections?

***Will you*** kneel and worship the baby king - the Incarnate deity?

***Will you*** tell others that Christmas is greater than we realize?

***Close in prayer***