

# GOODNEWS LETTER

Number 299 December 23, 2009

---

## BORN TO WITNESS

**"To this end was I born, and for this cause come I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth," John 18:37 - Jesus, answering Pilate's question.**

Clearly, the focus of the world, at this time of the year, is upon the manger scene. Each December - a season that really starts back in October, man celebrates God's gift to the world by placing Jesus in a straw bed. Then, next year, the world will celebrate the holiday called "Easter."

The Lord's church also celebrates the birth of the Savior and His glorious resurrection. His raising is our hope. He lives and we praise God for His gift! However, between these two celebratory times of the year, there's a lot of discipline that has to take place in a believer's life.

One discipline of His church-body is to ever move into the world preaching the salvation plan of repentance, baptism and the glorious coming of the King and His kingdom on earth. Church discipline is to learn, receive and follow His teaching, sharing it with others.

It is in the sense of discipline that His body honors Him. We teach Jesus. For, just as Jesus bore witness to the truth, His church body bears witness by taking His truth into all the world (Mt 28:19-20).

We rejoice in the birth of Jesus. But, we find that Biblical writers do not take much time with His birth; and, almost nothing of His early childhood. While, we think we need more, the Biblical account concerns itself about the mature Jesus and His teachings of the coming kingdom; i.e., Sermon on the mount, parable of the sower, etc.

For example, Matthew pens only two chapters before writing the account of His baptism. From there, Jesus is met by Satan, presents the Sermon on the Mount and intermingles with people, healing them and doing other miracles.

Mark skips the birth altogether, starting with - **"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God,"** recording His baptism early in the first chapter, v9.

Luke uses two chapters on the birth; ending the second chapter with **"...Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man," Lk 2:52.** In 3:21, Luke shows that heaven opens **"and the Holy Ghost descended in bodily shape like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, 'Thou are my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased'".**

The Beloved John opens his gospel describing who Jesus is and His purpose of coming into the world. John doesn't cover the birth but takes us way back to, "**In the beginning,**" when all things were made (Jn 1:2, 3).

John writes of the Person of Jesus. He's the "**Word**" (*a word is a vehicle that carries truth which provides the means of producing a result*). The "**Word**" was with God ... "**and the word was God,**" John declares in 1:1.

John's writing interprets the life and purpose of Jesus. John shows that **He is** the "**Word**" and, that Jesus "**made all things,**" verse 3.

Before we get through the first chapter of the fourth gospel, Jesus is baptized, calls His disciples and tells them of things to come.

And, in John's writing, we learn the eternal truth that "**...true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship Him**" (Jn 4:23).

This is an amazing truth that Jesus is pointing out to us. We must grasp this mystery of this verse and learn its eternal truth. Think about it! To be able to worship in spirit. No one has worshipped in this manner since the Fall of mankind.

Therefore, if we miss this truth, we cannot worship; not in spirit, anyway. Without trusting Jesus and going through Him, man is left to his own ways.

The magnitude of the birth of Jesus has eternal consequences for mankind. His birth means man and God are joined together. And, certainly, it underscores His words of John 14:6, "**I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**"

While, most believers know this, the fact is, Jesus is telling us that life exists in two dimensions. There is the physical and, there is the Spiritual.

Jesus brought us to God! Jesus took upon flesh and "**having made peace through the blood of His cross**" (Col. 1:20), He reconciled all things; even, natural man "**alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works...He reconciled in the body of His flesh through death**" (Col. 1:22, 23).

He was the God-Man. Now, through Him, we may fulfill John 4:23, 24: "**God is Spirit; and they that worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.**"

In our close, we cite the title verse of this GoodNews Letter, John 18:37, once again: "**To this end was I born...I should bear witness to the truth.**" Let us all ponder the next words of Jesus, carefully: "**Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice**" (John 18:37).