

Meditation On Christ As Our Model

Every December we all share the same sentiment: How in the world can it be December and time for Christmas again? With Christmas just around the corner we turn our minds and hearts to the birth of Jesus Christ. In light of this I want us to think about some of the ways His coming provides a model for us.

He shows us the way to go forth in mission

After Jesus was raised from the dead and met with His disciples He instructed them to go out into the world to meet needs and benefits others in the same way He went. John 20:21: “Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.’”

He shows us the way to be humble

Paul seeks to correct the lack of unity among the Church in Philippi by calling them to humble themselves, seek unity, and consider others’ needs as more important than their own.

Philip. 2:1-11: “So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind.... Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

He shows us the way to love

Ephesians. 5:1-2: “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

He shows us how to deal with suffering

1 Peter 2:21-23: “...Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.”

He shows us the way to be “givers”

As Paul encouraged the Corinthians to follow through on their promise to give toward needy Christians in Jerusalem, he appeals to the example of Jesus Christ Himself. 2 Cor. 8:9: “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”

He shows us how to forgive

Col. 3:13: “bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”

Joyfully Following His Example With You,
Pastor Tom