

Life Group Notes 27th September 2020

Before Christ???

What did God speak to you about on Sunday? What can you remember from Si's message?

Jesus, the eternal Son of God, chose to become a man and dwell among us, in order to die to offer salvation to mankind; and for those who turn to him they should live day by day choosing to die to living for themselves so that they are free to live for Christ.

Jesus the eternal son of God? Si looked at how Jesus whilst born at a particular time in history, has actually been as he is the eternal. Sanders (p28), "Jesus was unique among men in that his birth did not mark his origin, but only his appearance as a man on the stage of time." **Read John 1v1-18 and have the passage so everyone can see it and spend the next 10-20 minutes using (not discussing the rich theology of it) but use it to guide your prayers of thanks, praise and worship to God.** (Praise him for being eternal, for creating everything, have all life and eternal life in his hands, being greater than the darkness, accepting all who come to him into his family, being willing to live amongst us, revealing God's grace and truth to us. Etc.)

The mighty God becomes a living Man – Sanders (p34), "It appears that in Old Testament times God came in the form of a man, whereas in the incarnation he actually became a man."

Get someone to read Isaiah 7v14, someone else to read Luke 1v26-38 and then another Matt 1v18-25 discuss what the passages teach about Christ's conception and why this is important? (Cleary teaches that Jesus birth was miraculous act of God to a virgin named Mary. Isaiah prophesied it, Mary makes clear she has never had sex. Joseph clearly wasn't the father but thought it was another man until an angel appeared to him and told him otherwise. Matthew is clear to make it known that Joseph did not even have sex with Mary till after Jesus was born v25! Why is it important: Otherwise he would of inherited the sinful nature we all inherit from Adam; he would have just been a normal man who did incredible things with an earthly father rather than being the unique son of God, he fulfilled prophecy by being born like this; isn't it appropriate for the son of God to be born in a unique way, etc.)

(Footnote: we believe in the virgin birth but not the Immaculate conception! The immaculate conception is actually a Catholic doctrine that teaches Mary was Immaculately conceived and free from sin from conception! Nowhere in the bible does it claim that Mary was free from sin, in fact it could be argued from Mark3v21,31-35 that she was not always right. Only Jesus is presented as sinless in scripture),

Jesus became a man so that he could die on behalf of mankind so that all who look to him can be saved, given "the right to become children of God." (Jn1v12) We as his adopted children are now called to point people to Jesus the light of the World. So let's pray again for those people that we made a list of a few weeks ago the ones we would like to see saved. If not to late invite them to Alpha (you can still invite people to Alpha up to the third week).

Recommended book to read alongside the bible: **The Incomparable Christ by J. Oswald Sanders.**