

“Untangling Christmas”

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Zoom @ Noon

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1. The ball of Christmas lights

The “true meaning of Christmas” is tangled up with the world, the flesh and the Devil, like the ball of Christmas lights or the tangled aluminum icicles.

2. Efforts by men to get to the true meaning of Christmas right

Wikipedia describes Christmas as “*an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ ... For Christians, believing that God came into the world in the form of man to atone for the sins of humanity ... is considered to be the primary purpose in celebrating Christmas.*”

From the world’s perspective and often the church’s, the true meaning of Christmas is all balled-up.

3. Getting the true meaning of Christmas right.

The true meaning of Christmas is found in the Incarnation (in-flesh) ... God takes on the form and nature of man ... God’s fullest revealing of Himself to man in a man!

The best Incarnation descriptions in Scripture are John 1, Philippians 2, and Colossians 1

- **John 1.** “*¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God.*”
 - The Word was never _____, but always _____.
 - The Word is more than the _____ or _____ of God; the Word is fully God himself.

- **John 1.** “*³All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.*”
 - **Genesis 1.** “*¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth*”, and that Creator God was the _____, the _____ and, in human form, _____.
 - **Colossians 1.** “*¹⁶By (the Son of God) 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. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*”

- **John 1.** “*¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*”
 - **Philippians 2.** “*⁶Though (Jesus Christ) was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.*”
 - **Colossians 1.** “*¹⁹In (the Son of God) all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell*”
 - To see Jesus is to see the _____ of God and not _____.

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- **John 1.** “⁴*In him was life, and the life was the light of men.* ⁵*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it ...* ⁹*The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world ...* ¹⁶*From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.* ¹⁷*For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.* ¹⁸*No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.”*

The Incarnate Word of God is the only source of:

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| ○ _____ | ○ _____ |
| ○ _____ | ○ _____ |
| ○ _____ | ○ _____ |

- **John 1.** “¹⁰*He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.* ¹¹*He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.* ¹²*But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,* ¹³*who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”*
 - The people of this world, created by the Son of God, did not know the Son of God because _____.
 - Men have the power (*out of being*) to become Children of God, according to the _____ of God, by _____ and _____ in the Son of God.
 - **Colossians 1.**²⁰ (*God was pleased*) *through (the Son) to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.”*

4. Christmas hymns and carols that get the Incarnation right.

- **Of the Father’s Love Begotten** by Prudentius, 5th century AD

1. Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the Source, the Ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

2. O that birth forever blessed,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race;
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

- **Little Town of Bethlehem** by Phillips Brooks, 1868

3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of the heavens.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still
the dear Christ enters in.

4, O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray,
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

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- **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing** by Charles Wesley, 1739

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased with men in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel. [Refrain]

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. [Refrain]