



Blackfoot Church of Christ

Published by Blackfoot Church of Christ
Blackfoot, ID

Volume 8 Number 12

March 22, 2020

THE MAN WHO CHOSE TO BE BORN

By Tommy Thornhill

None of us chose to be born. We had no choice of the time and circumstances when we were born. We had no choice of who our parents would be, or what race, or which country in which we would be born. We simply had no choice in the matter.

But, the birth of Jesus was different than any other person ever born. He was not only able to choose who His mother would be, He was also able to choose the time, the when, the where and how He was to be born. For in His birth he was fulfilling a much greater purpose than just joining the human race, He was doing His Father's will which had been conceived in His Father's mind from eternity Eph 1:4-7.

God in His foreknowledge, in creating man and giving him freewill, knew there was a possibility that man by exercising his freewill would choose to sin, So, even though it was not understood by men or angels though the ages, God had also devised a plan to redeem fallen man that would involve His Son, Jesus Christ, living as a physical man 1 Pet 1:10-12; Heb 10:5-9. In order to do this, His Son, Jesus, would make His advent into the world as a little child. So, while Jesus' birth had been prearranged, when He came, it was for a much greater purpose than just being another baby being born.

Some say today that Jesus is the reason for the season we know as Christmas. People celebrate December 25 as the day of Christ's birth. But is this what God intended? We need to keep in mind that Jesus was born, not to remain a baby,

but to grow up and die on the cross for our sins. He would then be resurrected, defeating Satan's death hold on man. By Jesus' advent, doing the things preordained by His Father He triumphed over the devil and became our Savior.

Even though Jesus' birth was necessary and should be remembered by all as His debut into the world, God did not choose any special day to memorialize Jesus' birth. He did not establish December 25 to be the annual observance of His Son's birth. This was not the day God chose for us to remember what His Son did for us in becoming our Savior. He wanted people to remember His death, burial and resurrection. This was the event that God and Christ want Christians (the saved) to continually remember, the day Jesus arose from the dead, the first day of the week.

Since the first day of the week was the day of Jesus' resurrection, Christians the world over remember the Lord's death, burial and resurrection on this day. Even though Jesus did not state this directly, we learn this was done weekly by the only example of believers coming together to do so Acts 20:7. When the text is read carefully with the common use of grammar we can see the necessary implication that it was done each week. Some may question this, but the phrase, "upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together..." has no qualifying words to tell us which first day, so we understand it as we would understand it in common language. If someone says, "you will be paid on the fifth day of the week," with no other words qualifying which day, you would rightly infer and expect to be paid every fifth day of each week. The Jews certainly understood this when God told them to "remember the Sabbath." They didn't have to ask "which sabbath." They knew that God meant every Sabbath since He didn't elaborate further.

Yes, Jesus, the man, chose to be born. He was born to fulfill His Father's will. He was born of a woman Gen 3:15, through the lineage of Abraham and then David. His mother, Mary was chosen by God Lk 1:26-33; Mt 1:18-23. He was born at the time set by God Gal 4:4 in the place that had been predetermined, Bethlehem Micah 5:2-4.

Please do not think that I am writing this to tell people to ignore Jesus' birth. His birth was important, for without His birth, He could not have accomplished

what He came into the world to do. I talk about the birth of Jesus quite often, not just at a certain time of year on a certain date placed on a man-made calendar. We should rejoice in His birth all the time, but it should not be overemphasized and isolated from His work as our Redeemer.

I observe this time of year in a secular way, but not in a religious sense. Some argue that we can observe Christmas annually in a religious way because it is designed to honor Jesus and draw attention to Him as our Savior. They fail to realize that the reason Jesus was born is not seasonal as many treat it. Many people who are so religious this time of year will forget all about it until next year. They will attend a worship service during this season, but then will not darken the door again until the next year. Worshiping Jesus is not just a once a year affair. He should be worshipped every day, every week year-round.

Some want to put Christ back in Christmas. That is not necessary since He was never there in the commercial sense the world has made of it. But He is the reason any of us can be saved. He is the reason we have hope when this life is over. So, put Him where He belongs and deserves to be, in our hearts. Let Him live there every day of the year. Only then will He be truly honored.

Let me close with the words spoken by an angel of the Lord the night Jesus was born. He spoke words that were destined to change the world forever. "Do not be afraid, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which will be for all the people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" Lk 2:10-11.

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Brenda & April will be staying in through this virus
- Scott Boucher (Sparks NV) cancer treatment
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines
- Pray for all those with health issues with the spread of this new virus.

Worship Assignments

Today

Song Leader – David Porter

Lord's Table – Tom Mitchell

Wednesday

Song Leader – David Porter

Invitation – Tom Mitchell

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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