

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS
THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

the world's greatest miracle
the world's greatest miracle
(John 1: 14)

Many writers, ancient and modern, have written concerning the birth of Christ; but of them all, three stand out in bold relief. When Dr. Luke wrote his Gospel, he quoted the angels as saying, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). When Paul the theologian expressed the mind of the Church, he wrote ". . . great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh . . ." (1 Tim. 3:16). And finally, the apostle John said, " in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . And the Word was made flesh. and dwelt among us . . ." We would add to the words of the journalist, and say that this was the greatest event in history.

PROPOSITION 1. If it be true that God came down to earth, surely His reasons for doing so were very great. History teaches that in every crisis in human experience, God has been able to produce either man or angel capable of meeting the need. The judges and the prophets of ancient times all witness to this truth. Yet behind the Bethlehem incident is the greatest drama of all time. God was confronted by something which necessitated His own intervention. Neither man nor angel was equal to the demands of the moment, and thus God found it necessary to come down to earth. "The Word was made flesh." That compelling need-whatever it was must have been exceedingly great, and we are obliged to discover its origin. Let the Scriptures supply the answer. "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners " (1 Tim. 1:15). It was the need of man which brought the Almighty to earth; and in view of all that has already been said, we are now able to extend proposition one. If the story be true, then how great was the need of man.

PROPOSITION 2. If it be true that God came down to earth, how great was His love. It must never be forgotten that God saw the end from the beginning; and He who came to Bethlehem, came knowing that the road would lead on to Calvary. Yet in spite of the unprecedented anguish through which He would be called to pass, He turned not back. Fully realizing all that would be demanded of Him, He came into the world to save sinners. This great love was manifest in every miracle He performed, in every sermon delivered, and in every contact which He had with mankind. The same hands which upheld and controlled a world, were capable of lifting a little child to His knee. The same mind which conceived the songs of the birds was also interested in bringing songs to the hearts of needy people. He touched the untouchable lepers; He loved the unlovely demoniacs; He died for the ungrateful ungodly. There was love in all His words and deeds, and that love not only brought Him to a manger-it took Him to Calvary.

PROPOSITION 3. If it be true that God came down to earth, then how great is man's opportunity. A possible objection might be that this would be true for the people living in His day, but for us who are re-

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS the world's greatest miracle
moved by twenty centuries from the time of His sojourn
on earth, the proposition would not be strictly accurate.
If we could sit at His feet, or even draw near to His side,
then our opportunities would be measureless. Alas, we
were born too late! These arguments seem convincing
until we pause to remember that if God really came to
earth, then His words would be utterly reliable. The in-
carnate Word said at a later date, "It is expedient for you
that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will
not come unto you . . ." (John 16:7). Imprisoned within
a body, the eternal spirit of Christ could not be in two
places at once. Yet, in the Person of the returning Com-
forter, He could be everywhere at the same moment. Thus
He was able to command His disciples, "Go ye into all
the world and preach the Gospel." "And lo, I am with
you alway" (Mark 16:15; Matt. 28 : 20). The Incarnate
Word is now the Omnipresent Christ.

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:
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.