

“The High Cost of Christmas”

selected

INTRODUCTION

- how we came to celebrate Christ’s birth on Dec. 25

a pagan festival

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an Emperor’s decree

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a theological concern

1. The meaning of the incarnation

▣ fully God...and fully man...in one person?

- error #1: *docetism* — ‘Jesus wasn’t really a man’
Jn. 1:14; 1 Jn. 4:2-3

- error #2: *Arianism* — ‘Jesus wasn’t really God’
Jn. 1:14, 18; Col. 1:15

2. The results of the incarnation

1 Tim. 2:5

- a. Jesus came as the perfect man
1 Cor. 15:45, 47; Rom. 5:18-19

- b. Jesus came as the propitiatory sacrifice
Heb. 2:16-17

- c. Jesus came as our example and priest
1 Jn. 2:6; 1 Pet. 2:21; Heb. 2:18

3. The cost of the incarnation

- after the resurrection...
Jn. 20:25-27; Lk. 24:42-43

- at His ascension...
Acts 1:11

- in heaven presently...
Rev. 1:13-17

- at His promised coming...
Mt. 26:29; Rev. 19:9

CONCLUSION

“If New Testament Christianity is to reappear today with its power and joy and courage, men must recapture the basic conviction that this is a Visited planet...The staggering truth must be accepted afresh—that in this vast, mysterious universe, of which we are an almost infinitesimal part, the great Mystery, Whom we call God, has visited our planet in Person. It is from this conviction that there springs unconquerable certainty and unquenchable faith and hope....that, as a sober matter of history, God became one of us.”
— J.B. Phillips