

INTRODUCTION

1. Jesus came to save us. The incarnation is integral to our salvation.
2. Phil 2:7 - context v3-8 Lesson: *have the same attitude as Christ Jesus*
3. A challenging text - but the incarnation is the assumption of the passage.

1st: Did the Incarnation Change the Son of God?

1. LBC 8:2 very God & very man: 1 person 2 natures
2. What did the incarnation mean for the Son of God: *emptied Himself, taking*
 - i. A subtraction - relinquish something pertaining to His deity: *emptied*
 - ii. An addition in wh/ human nature is added to Son of God: *taking*. "Subtracting by adding" - there is truth here.
3. An assumption: the incarnation changed the Son. No - it did not. Hb 1:3
 - i. Incarnate Son of God continued to be divine as the man, Jesus.
 - ii. Illustrations fail: dirt hiding a painting; king costumed as peasant
4. Paul's emph: Jesus' *attitude* demonstrated in being God & not *grasping equality w/ God* but *taking form of bondservant* = Jesus' humanity
 - i. *taking* = to take hold of smthg; to make smthg one's own: not grasping equality w/ God [as disobedient Adam] but taking hold of our human nature as His own. Here is the divine Son: Jesus the human Servant.
5. The Divine Person did not change: immutable, infinite, perfect - cannot be diminished or enlarged in His person or glory.

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2nd: The Incarnation is for Our Transformation

1. The human can change: finite, mutable, imperfect. By uniting us to the resurrected Jesus, we are changed. We begin to become truly human.
2. Jn 1:14 *Word became flesh*: is a "becoming" in history, not in the being of God. The beginning of our being conformed to Christ - Rm 8:29-30

Applic #1: Satan's Tactic: Truncate Our Hopes & Expectations

1. Do we have limited thots of the incarnation during Xmas?
2. The incarnation is the beginning of the transformation of our humanity in union with the resurrected Jesus. In Him we are like God & live w God.

Applic #2: Cultivate the Attitude of the Incarnate Son of God

1. An attitude, mindset - selfless, humble, serving, holy. Col 3:1-4.