
Sermon Notes

December 4, 2022

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

WHEN JESUS CAME

The Right Person

Galatians 4:4-5

The Sent One

- ❖ There is only one person who is uniquely qualified to be the Savior of the world
 - *God sent forth His Son*
 - these words tell us of
 - God's plan
 - Christ's identity
- ❖ Jesus' coming is the culmination of a plan devised in the eternal counsel of the triune God before the world is ever created
 - fulfills of generations of prophecy
 - fulfills the plan and purpose of God
 - Jesus identifies Himself as the sent One (Mark 9:37)

Christ's Identity

- ❖ Paul's words about God sending His Son tell us much about the nature and character of Christ
 - testify to Christ's preexistence and His eternal deity

- getting to know Jesus from "a heavenly perspective"
 - 1 Corinthians 8:6 *...through whom are all things and through whom we exist*
 - Colossians 1:15-17 *...all things were created through him and for him*
 - ♦ visible and invisible (good angels and bad)
 - ♦ all things are held together by Christ
 - ♦ *the firstborn of all creation* = the preeminent one, the supreme, sovereign over all things
 - ♦ the image of the invisible God
 - Hebrews 1:3 *the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power...*
 - Jesus Christ is not a created being, He is the Creator of everything that exists
 - Philippians 2:5-9
- ❖ The three members of the Godhead: Father, Son and Spirit are coeternal and coequal in every way
 - one in essence, power and will
 - share the same glory, sovereignty, majesty and every other attribute
 - in His incarnation, Jesus willingly and voluntarily submits Himself to His Father's will in the same way an obedient son is subordinate to his earthly father
 - only in Christ's incarnation does the Father/Son relationship within the Trinity come into focus for us
 - Psalm 2:7, a relationship planned in eternity past

- Hebrews 1:5-6, shows how Psalm 2:7 is unique linked to the moment in time when God *brings the firstborn into the world*
- God speaks about this relationship in the future tense in 2 Samuel 7:14 and Luke 1:32
- as part of Jesus willing, voluntary submission to His Father, Jesus
 - empties Himself
 - takes on the form of a servant
 - covers His glory with the veil of human flesh
- this willing, voluntary subordination applies only to Jesus' time on earth
 - having returned to heaven, Jesus resumes the full manifestation of His eternal glory and God gives Him a name that is above every name

Why This Matters

- ❖ We must understand Jesus and come to Him according to the way He reveals Himself to us in His Word
 - Jesus is the Living Word of God (John 1:1)
 - any understanding or representation of Jesus that fails to fully align with Jesus' revelation of Himself is false and must be rejected
- ❖ It takes courage to believe in Jesus and to acknowledge that God sent His, unique, one and only Son into the world to accomplish His righteous purpose
 - many have and still face persecution and death for believing these truths

- the truth that Jesus Christ is God's eternally existent, sent Son lies at the very center of the Christian faith

❖ *Who do you say I am?*

- the most important thing you will ever say or think in your life
- on the Day Judgment, your eternal destiny will be decided by how you answer this question during your time on earth

Personal Application

1. Does the teaching contained in this message contradict any beliefs you have previously embraced about Jesus and His incarnation? What Scriptures do you need to study more thoroughly in order to help you solidify a Biblical understanding of Jesus' unique nature and character?
2. An encouragement was made in this message to memorize Galatians 4:4-5. ***But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.*** If you add one phrase each week, you will have these 2 verses memorized by Christmas! Will you accept this challenge and begin that process this week?
3. Who do you say Jesus is? How could you express the truth about Jesus' unique nature and character and the way He fulfills God plan in brief sentence?