

Text: Matthew 1:21

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.” (Mt 1:1-25 AV)

Introduction:

If you pluck away the supernatural from the story of Jesus Christ, then you have nothing left. Not one word, idea, or event. It is supernatural from the beginning to the end. and you have a story of mythic caricature that makes no sense, and can make no sense. There is just no way to explain Mary and Joseph, the Wise Men, The Star, and a whole host of other event apart from the intrusion of the supernatural Creation the exactly the way that the Scripture describe it. The Gospel is the work of God from beginning to end. This is the reason that Peter wrote to Titus: 1 ¶ Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God’s elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; 2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; 3 But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour; So we will begin with these words of Paul and get to Matthew 1:21 in a few minutes

I. The Wholly Supernatural Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- A. The elect have faith, and no one else does. It is faith that makes the difference, and this is a supernatural faith, born of a supernatural seed, not a natural seed, so that the elect are a special people of the Lord.
- B. The faith acknowledges the truth, but a special category of truth: the truth that is after godliness. It is the truth concerning God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Not some vague idea of deity, but the truth set forth in Scripture.
- C. This faith works hope of eternal life; HC Q21: What is true faith?
A21: True faith is not only a sure knowledge, whereby I hold for truth all that God has revealed to us in His Word,[1] but also a hearty trust,[2] which the Holy Ghost [3] works in me by the Gospel,[4] that not only to others, but to me also, forgiveness of sins, everlasting righteousness, and salvation are freely given by God,[5] merely of grace, only for the sake of Christ's merits.[6]
- D. It is from God who cannot lie and promised before the world began.
 1. Promised, to whom. Hebrews 2: 18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.
 2. Ephesians 1:3, 4; God promised to Christ, to give Him a people. John 17: 1ff. Read and follow.
- E. It is known to the world through preaching. If you are going to be saved, God will send you a preacher. Why, because the Gospel says that whosoever will call on the name of the Lord shall be saved; but you cannot call if you do not believe; and you cannot believe unless you hear, and you cannot hear without a preacher. The Gospel will not rise spontaneously in your soul as a self help project: you must submit to something that is alien

to your very being. And they cannot preach unless God sends them, So Paul in Romans 10

II. The Saving of His People by Jesus Christ

- A. So now this supernatural Gospel breaks into the world on that first Christmas some two thousand years ago.
- B. It involves the special presence of God Himself. God with Us.
- C. He came to save His people. There are people who belong to Christ and there are people who do not belong to Christ. He came to save those who belong to Him, though they may not at this time believe. Jesus said in John 17: “I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me, for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am gloried in them: And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world.....Neither pray I for them alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word....Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast give me, be with me where I am: that they may behold my glory: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.’ WOW
- D. There was always a people, characterized by faith.
 - 1. Seed of the Woman
 - 2. Abel
 - 3. Enoch,
 - 4. Noah
 - 5. Abraham
 - 6. Isaac
 - 7. Jacob
 - 8. Remnant of Israel
 - 9. Faithful when Christ came
 - 10. 120 Day of Pentecost; 500 brethren who...
 - 11. Elect of Every Nation, added to the church through the preaching of the Gospel.

12. Without election, Christianity becomes another humanistic religion as false as other relations that men invent in order to satisfy their urge for the supernatural, having rejected the true supernatural.

III. The Saving of His People From their Sins

- A. This saving of His people [the elect; the chosen ones] is accomplished by a three-fold work of God, and this three fold work of God is the very definition of salvation.
 1. First is the Incarnation, the entry of God into our world by Jesus Christ taking our flesh in the body of the Virgin Mary and being born as a real human being: the historical man, Jesus of Nazareth. Your faith must begin here. That Christ has come and He is Jesus of Nazareth as the Scripture declares.
 - a. This was for the purpose of Him keeping the whole law on our behalf, so that His perfect righteousness could be counted to us and the guilt of our sin being put away forever.
 - b. This was also for the purpose of Him teaching us the truth about God and sending this light and truth to the end of the world. This honor was reserved for the Son of God alone.
 - c. This was also for the purpose of Him suffering on the Cross, being made a curse for us, that the curse of Adam's sin would be removed and we could receive the blessing of Abraham, which is the Holy Spirit.
 - d. He would then rise from the dead and ascend into heaven to be our prophet, priest, and king until the end of the world, distributing to us the Holy Spirit.
 2. Second: The Sending of the Holy Spirit to His people, to implant a new nature, so they would enter His kingdom as little babies, desiring the sincere milk of the word to grow thereby. This is regeneration, or being born again and begins in faith, love, hope, joy, for they are taught of God these things, by His Spirit and confirmed by the preaching of the Gospel and the use of the Sacraments as the catechism says.

3. Third: Sanctification and Glorification. By the Holy Spirit they are taught to put off the old and put on the new that they may be conformed to Jesus Christ, to which they are predestined. This sanctification is completed at the resurrection from the dead and glorification in heaven, where we will finally be free from sin.

Conclusion.

Let us live in the supernatural life of Jesus Christ, and not plod away in the world of carnal sense and human ideas and superstitions, but in the promises of God that begin in eternity and end in eternity.

This world is not our home, for our conversation is in heaven; that world of grace and truth that will be fully revealed only at the appearing of Jesus Christ in His eternal kingdom. Let us set our affections on things above where Christ sits at the right hand of God. Amen and Amen.

Conclusion and Application.