



NEW LIFE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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"For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9)

Vol. 12 No. 51

LORD'S DAY 21 DECEMBER 2008

A LOWLY MANGER FOR THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD

Introduction

The birth of Jesus is one of the greatest events that have ever happened on earth. There were amazing angelic appearances, a God-sanctioned virgin conception, and the fulfillment of prophecies through the precise details of His birth. The hand of God was definitely on the birth of the Lord Jesus into the world. As we consider afresh of the birth of the Lord Jesus, we are amazed by the simple statement made in Luke 2:7, "*And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.*" The thought of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords coming into this world and being placed in a manger is absolutely incredible. A manger is a simple feeding trough for farm animals and was certainly no place for any human baby to be placed in, much less the Son of God. However, there are some important reasons why Jesus was placed in a manger at His birth. A lowly manger designed specifically for the arrival of the eternal Son of God.

I. THE LESSON OF ALIENATION

Luke 2:7 plainly says that Jesus was placed in this makeshift cradle because there was no room available for Him and His family at the inn in Bethlehem. Isn't it sad that when God came to earth to redeem sinners, He did not receive the proper welcome that was due to Him? Furthermore, He was rejected. Has there since been much change in 2,000 years? Sadly, no. There is still no room for Jesus in society today, whether at schools, homes, lives, and sadly, even at some professing...

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churches. Have you made room for Jesus in your heart or is it crowded with the things of the world? He was unwanted and unwelcome then, and still is now! Many would rather believe there is no god. If one exists, they do not want to know Him. Many would rather believe in evolution, yoga, tarot cards and feng shui rather than having faith in the only living and true God.

II. THE LESSON OF ASSOCIATION

When Jesus allowed Himself to be laid in the manger, He was identifying Himself with those He came to save. There are three great areas in men's lives that Jesus came to identify with:

A. Mankind's Poverty – He knows of our depravity and our deep spiritual need for salvation through Christ alone and He identifies with us (2 Cor. 8:9 – *"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."*) He knows of our spiritual poverty, that we are bankrupt (Matt. 8:20) and has promised to meet our needs (Phil. 4:19; Psa. 37:25). That is the reason why Isa 55:1 says *"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."*

B. Mankind's Problems – He knows of our every struggle in this fallen world (Isa. 53:3; Heb. 4:15-16). He knows about the trials, testings and tribulations we face and He has identified Himself with them. Therefore, He is able to help us through our troubles and meet the needs of our lives.

C. Mankind's Priorities – He detested man's pride and worldly pomp and those who boast of their riches. When Jesus came to this world, He knew that mankind was basically covetous, in love with wealth and the pursuit of wealth, and neglected God. He came to teach us that there is a higher priority in life than money making, pleasure and self-glory. And, that priority is the glory of the Father and the advancement of His glorious kingdom to the saving of souls! Luke said this about Jesus, Luke 16:15 – *"for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God."* He was born in that humble manger to remind men that the greatest aspiration of the human soul is to seek the glory of Almighty God and to enjoy him forever, and not self or worldly success (Matt. 6:33).

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III. THE LESSON OF ACCESSIBILITY

If Jesus would have been born in Herod's palace amid all the worldly riches and pomp and pageantry, having a golden crib for a bed and a life of abundance and plenty, He would be separated from the common man by the walls and guards of a king's palace. If that were the case, no one will have the liberty to come to Him. However, He was born in a manger and therefore He made Himself accessible to all who would come to Him. Luke 2 records the visit of the shepherds. These common, simple men had the liberty to approach Him in this place. Later, even the wise men, these learned, wealthy men felt equally at home bowing before Him in the manger. One of the reasons Jesus shunned the palace in favor of the manger is so that He would be available to all who desired to come to Him. Thank God, whosoever will can find all they will ever need in Jesus. From the lowliest man to the most influential ruler, all men have the privilege and honor to come to worship and honor Jesus, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Rev. 22:17; John 3:16; John 6:37).

IV. THE LESSON OF ANNOUNCEMENT

When Mary took her newborn baby and placed Him in that feeding trough, she was painting an image far more vivid than she realized. For there in Bethlehem, "*The House of Bread*", the Bread of Life was born. Isn't it appropriate that the One who would feed the souls of countless multitudes should have as His bed the very place where animals came to feed? It is a place where spiritually hungry men can come to Jesus and receive Him. He satisfies the longing of their souls (Psa. 107:9) and gives them the Bread of Everlasting Life (John 6:32-35). It was almost as if God were saying, "Come and seek the Lord and be filled with the everlasting drink and meat of life" and He is truly our source of eternal life.

Conclusion

As we close we need to ask ourselves several vital questions and answer them sincerely before God. Is there room for Christ to come to in to your heart and will you repent of your sins and be saved by His grace? Do you seek to know Him as your personal Lord and Saviour and have the assurance of everlasting hope and peace with God?

*Rev Jack Sin
Maranatha B-P Church, S'pore*

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON
CHURCH THEME: WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION WITH FEAR
AND TREMBLING. (Philippians 2:12)

Our **worship services** begin promptly at **11.00 am and 4.00 pm.**

Please stay back for Bible Study and fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the evening service. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

Worship Services			WELCOME
Morning	<i>Today: 21/12/2008</i>	<i>Next Week: 28/12/2008</i>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day.
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Rev Yeo Seow Phong	Rev Yeo Seow Phong	
<i>Message:</i>	Properly Appraising God's Ministers	Purge Out the Old Leaven	NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
<i>Text:</i>	1 Corinthians 4:1-21	1 Corinthians 5:1-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Christmas Service: Please note that there will be no Christmas Service this year. • Calling of Resident Minister: Continue to pray for the Lord's calling for a resident minister. The church leaders are praying about calling Rev Timothy Ki. • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas (knee pain), Maria (ankle and joint pain), Constance (left heel pain), Maureen (knee pain), Anthony (recovery from collarbone fracture), John (recovery from fractured toe), Margaret (recovery from sprained wrist) • Pray for those who are seeking employment: John, Constance • Pray for Journey Mercies: Mark & Hui Min (USA), Douglas (Ghana), Hubert (S'pore), Jiak Eng (S'pore), Yetta (South Africa), Joey & family (S'pore/Switzerland), Sophia (S'pore), Joshua (S'pore), Lee Wei & parents (Europe), Nicholas (Belgium), Peng Yu & Louise (Egypt), Joy (USA)
<i>Organist:</i>	Joy	Grace	
Evening			
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	John Poh	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Rev Yeo Seow Phong	Rev Yeo Seow Phong	
<i>Message:</i>	Fellowship with Jesus	Walking As Jesus Walked	
<i>Text:</i>	1 John 1:1-10	1 John 2:1-29	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Grace	Anthony	
Other Duties			
	<i>Today: 21/12/2008</i>	<i>Next Week: 28/12/2008</i>	
<i>Ushers</i>	John / Evelyn	Daniel / Hannah	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	No Sunday School	Hannah	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Constance	Maureen	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>PA Crew:</i>	Anthony	Joshua	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 26 Dec	Young Adults Fellowship: No YAF Meeting		
Sat 27 Dec 4.00pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Led by Rev Yeo Seow Phong		
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
Offering: £259.58	YAF: £38.61	Lunch: £37.46	
Memory Verse			
<i>Last Week (December 08 Wk 3): 1 Corinthians 13:9</i>			
For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.			
<i>This Week (December 08 Wk 4): 1 Corinthians 13:10</i>			
But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.			
The Task Force wishes all members and worshippers a "Blessed Christmas" .			