JOHN’S MANGER STORY

**14** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John 1:14 (KJV)

We do not normally think of John giving us the Christmas story. Matthew and Luke are more linked to Nativity. John does have something to say about Jesus birth and that is “the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.” The story of the Nativity tells us how Jesus the Word came to us in human form. Without this miraculous conception and birth we would not have a salvation story.

God becoming man is one great truth of the gospel. It is the miracle of the manger, the success of the cross, and the hope of the empty tomb. Miraculously, a virgin woman gave birth to a baby that first Christmas night. Successfully, God’s Son Jesus became our sacrifice and took man’s sins to the cross and put them to death. Since Jesus rose victorious over the grave we have the confidence and assurance that when we die we too shall live again. GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!!!

When Mary and Joseph looked at that newborn baby they were looking at God because the Word was made flesh. The shepherds found God wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. Most likely some animals shared their overnight shelter with the creator of the universe on the night of Jesus birth. As the wise men gave their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to one who they believed to be born king of the Jews they were actually giving to Almighty God who owned and inhabited the heavens and the earth.

To imagine that He dwells among us is beyond my comprehension. God wanted the young as well as the old to understand that He is available for them. He wants us to believe that the weak and the strong can experience Jesus. God became man that we would know that he is fully aware of the struggles and toils of our lives. Paul gives us this word on the incarnation of Christ: **6** Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: **7** But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: Phil 2:6-7 (KJV).

It’s hard to imagine that God would want to be with fallen man but he did, and he does. Just as he came to mankind over two thousand years ago, he wants to come to you as an individual today. Let this be the day of New Birth for you. In a very real but spiritual way, God can be born in you and wipe your sins away. I do not picture the stable of long ago as chaotic. Rather, I see a place of serenity. Would you not like to lay that chaotic heart before God today and say “Lord would you fill my heart with peace?”

May you and your family be blessed this Christmas.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram