



love

THAN WORDS

SANCTUARY CHRISTMAS 2008



Two Key Truths About Advent To Be Astonished By:

1. That God would reveal Himself
2. That God would condescend

God being seen and beheld is the greatest treasure of Christmas...that God would reveal himself to such lowly creatures. It isn't the Virgin Birth that is such a miracle as it is that God would even reveal himself this way...making himself as such with the lowly...that is the miracle. The Christmas present is Christ Himself. Not forgiveness, love, acceptance, but the person of Jesus!

Questions to Ponder:

So, have we committed a type of idolatry/spiritual adultery by focus too much thanks on the benefits of Jesus (forgiveness, blessings, presents, family) and not just Jesus?

Is the emptying of ourselves the greatest manifestation of what it means to genuinely be a follower of Christ?

Philippians 2:4-11

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1. Concentration

v. 4 “not looking each of you to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others” (literal)

The participle translated (σκοποῦντες) “look out” means basically “to look attentively,” that is, to fix one’s attention on something with deep interest in it . Not neglecting your interest but with the same passion and tedious intent as you own.

1 Cor. 10:24-“Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.”

1 Cor. 10:32–33-“Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, 33 just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.”

1 Cor. 11:1-“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”

2. Abdication

v. 4 “but also the interest of others...”

1 Cor. 13:5-“Love does not seek it’s own interests”

3. Emulation

v. 5 –literally-“this you think in you which also in Christ Jesus.”

- 1st verb is Present imperative
- Second verb is past tense “Christ Jesus had”
- Not just an act of thinking, but a state of mind, an inward bend.
- We are to exercise the same Supreme self-negation.
- We are called upon to tread the same path as Christ