

Christmas - Jesus the Liberator

by Erlo Stegen

The sermon emphasizes the significance of Jesus' incarnation as the liberator from sin and death, highlighting the transformative power of His blood and the essence of Christmas as a celebration of this liberation.

Duration: 45:14

Scripture: Isaiah 1:18, John 4:24, Romans 7:24, Romans 8:1-2, 1 John 4:1-3, Revelation 1:8

Topics: "Incarnation Of Christ", "Spirit Of Antichrist"

Description

This sermon delves into the significance of Jesus coming in the flesh, emphasizing the need for discernment amidst false prophets. It explores the confession of Jesus coming in the flesh as a key indicator of the Spirit of God, contrasting it with the Spirit of the Antichrist. The dual nature of Jesus as both God and man is highlighted, underscoring the preciousness of His divine blood and the transformative power it holds over sin and death.

Transcript

The question being, why should Jesus have come in the flesh? What is the explanation? Because it also says that there are many false prophets and we need discernment. Especially in this era where there are those who love to claim they are prophets but they are lying prophets. And this text helps us to understand and to correctly see the difference between the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Jesus, and the Spirit of the Antichrist.

Here in 1 John 4, from the first verse as we have read, where we are told Beloved do not believe every spirit but test the spirits to see whether they are from God. For many false prophets have gone out into the world. So how are we then to discern? Because it says there are many prophets but there are many false prophets.

And then it says, but you will know the Spirit of God through this. Every spirit that confesses that Jesus has come in the flesh is from God. So what is the meaning therefore of Jesus being incarnated, coming in the flesh? Because it is admitted by most religions that there was a Jesus.

He was there in the flesh. But the Spirit of the Antichrist, does it confess that Jesus came in the flesh? But do remember that the Antichrist does not mean that he denies Christ is existing. The Antichrist is one who replaces Jesus Christ.

So let us therefore look more carefully at the meaning of Jesus coming in the flesh. Jesus is both God himself and man himself. And we are told that all things were created by him and unto him.

Which shows that Jesus is God for he is the creator of everything. He is also the Alpha and the Omega, Alpha being that he was there from the beginning. And has created all things.

He created heaven and earth from the very beginning right to the end. Jesus is God himself. He is the Spirit.

But now think, he came down and became flesh, became fully human like you and me. While being God simultaneously, known as the Son of God. Our doctors who know the human body so well, they say a child receives its blood via the father.

The body from the mother. And in that way he is both God and man and that confuses some people. They say how is it possible to be both at the same time? It is a great secret.

But if you understand that the blood comes from the father. And then it is said in the Bible that Jesus was the Son not of Joseph but the Son of God. That is why his divine blood is so precious.

We are never to take lightly his blood. If you are washed in the blood of Jesus, remember it is the blood of God, you should treat it as being so precious. How carefully you should treat the blood of the Lord.

We are washed by the blood of God, the most high, not Joseph's blood. How precious. Shouldn't that blood be to you? For it is the blood of God himself.

It is not just any blood. You confess your sin, the Bible says he confesses and forsakes his sin, shall obtain mercy. The preciousness of that blood.

How carefully, in what manner should you be living in this world if you have been washed by that blood? The body is from the mother. The soul is in the blood. If he had just human blood, then he would be a sinner just like you.

But he was sinless. His body he received from Mary. That is why we know him as fully man, but the blood from the Father, from God the Father, that is why we know him as fully divine too.

Now faith. Our faith in this precious blood, the faith that believes that this blood is so precious. And for the one who tramples this blood underfoot, woe to that person.

In Romans chapter 8, and we can read from verse 1. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus for the law of the Spirit of life. The law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. I have said that he had the body from Mary.

That is why we are sinners for sin dwells in us in the body. And sin dwells in our flesh. And we live in it.

Even when you try and fight against the flesh, you fail. One person said that he will stop smoking. But that demon of smoking was in him.

And by his determination to stop smoking, he went to the outside long drop toilet. He took his cigarettes and threw it down into the pit together with the one that was still in his mouth. But after two or three days, off he was to the shop to buy his cigarettes again.

And he went to the shop to buy his cigarettes again. And he went to the shop to buy his cigarettes again. Another old man who wanted to stop with his cigarettes, he had heard that it is bad for him and that it is sinful.

He smoked with a pipe. He said, Lord, I am stopping today. I am stopping today with this because I hear that I am the temple for you.

This is the end of it. He took his spade, went to his garden, to the corner, and he dug a hole. And buried his pipe and covered it too.

But after three days, the cravings were so terrible, he went back to the corner of his garden, dug it up, shook off the sand, and smoked again. In dwells you in the flesh. You try and stop, it is unstoppable.

And drug addicts too, they say that they try to stop, but they just cannot leave the habit because this habit, this addiction dwells in them. And even though God has told you, stop with your lying, stop with your anger, stop with your swearing, stop with this and your killing and your smoking, but nevertheless you continue. Though you try ever so hard, you just cannot stop, for the temper indwells you, this irritability is inside you, it lives in you.

Jesus with his precious divine blood has a body nevertheless, the body of flesh. Now you try and stop it, but it is unstoppable. And that points us to the Roman letter in the seventh chapter, verse 24.

Wretched man that I am, who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through our Lord Jesus Christ. In ancient times. Paul and the people of his day fully understood when this expression was used, wretched man that I am, who will deliver me from this body of death? We in this era, we don't understand the implications of this wretchedness and this body of death.

Now in ancient times, this was the practice, a person wasn't hanged or given a lethal injection, but if he had killed somebody and he was caught, they would take the corpse of the murdered person and tie it to the murderer, hands to hands, arms to arms. Mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, legs to legs. The person had this corpse tied to him and if he tried to get up, it was difficult for this corpse was tied to him.

And if he tried to walk, it was with great difficulty for his legs were tied to the legs of the corpse. He would walk down the street and cry out, oh wretched man that I am, who will set me free from this body of death? Remember this body of death, the person who he had murdered was tied to him, body part to body part, eyes to eyes. And this body was busy putrefying, as you know that a corpse in the hot sun goes rotten very quickly, and it's tied to him.

And the worms, they begin to move around and go into him too. And these maggots, even mouth to mouth to the corpse, would go into him. The maggots would go into him nose to nose, terrible smell.

That is why even a loved one, even though you loved them so dearly, that you will put them away in the grave. This putrid corpse was now causing him to die for the maggots were getting into him, the rotteness was invading him. He would cry out, oh woe is to me, wretched man that I am, who will set me free from this body? No one could.

So look at mankind, look at the drug addict, he tries to stop, he can't. Sexually immoral, tries to stop with it, he can't. Filthy thoughts, tries to stop, they just, the thoughts come back to him for they are in him, they are operative in him.

And he too cries out, oh woe is me, wretched man that I am, who will set me free from this body of death? For this body, for this corpse is tied to him day and night, and he will be killed by it because of the corpse. And the cry of that person could be heard afar off because no one was allowed to come and set him free from this body. God saw humankind loving people and seeing them die.

God sees mankind in its wretched state, loves them nevertheless, he sees them dying, the sinner dying with these evil habits and addictions, this messing around, this sexual immorality, little girls already busy with sex, boys as well. And they can't stop, look at the disrespect, look at the rebelliousness of young people today, one can mention so many things. You can go to a jail and see how full they are.

Do you know this liberation where you have been bound to the corpse of sin and you are set free? But here is the marvellous thing, he goes on to say thanks be to God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ in the flesh, he is able to set us free from this body of death. And then it goes on to say therefore there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

For the law of the spirit of life has set me free from the law of sin and death. God gave us the law, don't steal, don't fight, don't be adulterous, promiscuous, don't steal, but the law does not help us. What the law could not accomplish, Jesus Christ did by coming in the flesh.

For there was no sin in Jesus, in Christ, he was pure. So if you are troubled, there is something that you are trying to stop, but you can't. Come to Jesus, he will set you free.

He will set you free from the law of sin. Because sin indwells us, we cannot get victory over sin ourselves. And thus it was, God seeing our predicament sent Jesus Christ, born in the flesh, so that if you come to Jesus, if you receive him, and he comes inside you, he conquers our sin, because you begin to live his life.

For in Romans 8, for the spirit of life it says in verse 2, this law of the spirit of life in Christ comes and sets us free from the law of sin and death. It is wonderful to have faith, to be a believer in this world, because Jesus Christ sets free, liberates you from your sin. And it says for that, which the law could not do, the law which says you shall not steal, you go into a shop and you grab something, you can't stop with it.

That sin is unstoppable, even if you beat that person, whip them with a shambock, they will go back to the sin again. Because the sin of being like a pig is inside him. The satanic dog is inside you, that is why your behaving like a dog does not stop with you.

But if Christ Jesus indwells you, even if sin is put right in front of you, you can resist it. We have a new law, a new nature inside you. Take a chicken, take its little chicks, see if they go into a water, even if the water is close, they are not tempted to swim, because by instinct it is not like a duck who loves water.

That is why Christmas is so special. Because a person who is rebellious has left their home and they are just wanderers in the world. But if Christ Jesus comes into them, they are changed because the law of death has been put to an end.

That is why the Bible says, therefore there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. I heard of this infamous criminal who was in and out of jail doing terrible things, but he met with Christ. And from that time on, everybody was saying, we don't have to watch out for him anymore.

He stopped with what he was doing. We don't have to guard our little girls again. We don't have to guard him and the things that he used to do.

He is a changed person. And even if you leave money in the home with this converted criminal inside the home, they didn't fear that their money would go. Because the Bible says, there is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Because they are parted from sin. They have parted from sin. They don't need to be policed anymore because the spirit of Jesus Christ is inside that person.

Isn't the gospel wonderful? The event of Christmas, you see how great it is? You don't have to go around begging for Christmas gifts because this is the greatest gift. That Jesus Christ comes into you and he conquers, he changes things so that you are no longer bound to the body of death. For the one who is the Alpha and the Omega indwells you.

You don't have to try and be holy because anyway, Christ Jesus who indwells you makes you holy. Now the spirit that agrees with that is the spirit of God. But the spirit or the person who rejects this truth is the spirit of the Antichrist.

For they live in sin. For I have said that the spirit of the Antichrist replaces, substitutes itself for Jesus Christ. I don't know whether this is understandable to you or not.

You answer me. You tell me. Is it understandable? It shouldn't trouble you.

You can leave. Even if Satan tempts you. Even if he comes with your old sins.

Even if Satan comes to you with your old sins. That is no trouble for you because the one who indwells you is greater than he that is in the world. Shall we pray? We thank you Lord for this great mystery of the gospel.

And this great work which you did which we remember at Christmas. Liberating us from sin and death. Washing us.

Snow white in the blood of the Lamb. The spotless blood of the Lamb. Amen.

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