

## ***Christmas – The Celebration of Christ***

December 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### ***1 John 1:1-5***

**Christmas**: “Christ and mass. Sax. *massa*, a holy day or feast ... A festival of the Christian Church”<sup>1</sup>

❖ Christmas is the celebration of the coming of Christ!

#### **John the Apostle emphasized the significance of the coming of Christ**

##### ***“That which was from the beginning...”***

❖ Jesus was in the beginning

*Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”*

*John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”*

*Colossians 1:17-18 “He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together ... He is the beginning ...”*

##### ***“which we have heard”***

❖ The Scriptures are true

*Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”*

*Isaiah 9:6-7 “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.”*

*Micah 5:2 “But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.”*

##### ***“which we have seen with our eyes”***

❖ John’s personal testimony

*Matthew 17:1-2 “And after six days Jesus took with Him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as light.”*

##### ***“which we looked upon and have touched with our hands”***

❖ John’s personal experience

*Luke 24:39 “... Touch Me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”*

##### ***“concerning the Word of life”***

❖ Jesus is the Word of Life

*John 6:63 “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.”*

***“the life was made manifest, and we have seen it”***

*Manifest*: “To reveal; to make to appear; to show plainly; to make public; to disclose to the eye or to the understanding.”<sup>1</sup>

❖ God’s plan of redemption was revealed in Christ

*1 Peter 1:20 “He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you, who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”*

***“and [we] testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us”***

❖ The purpose of our proclaiming is “...so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.”

❖ The essence of the unity of all Christians is our relationship with the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ!

***“And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.”***

❖ The joy of all Christians is complete only as we share and proclaim to others that Jesus, the Son of God, Messiah, has come and made the way to eternal life with God in heaven forever!

*“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!*

*Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody!*

*With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!”*

*Psalm 98:4-6*

Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

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