

Deepening our Relationship with God

Day 16

“And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have SENT....As you SENT me into the world, so I have sent them into the world....O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have SENT me.”

John 17:3, 18, 25

Key Thought: God sent Jesus Christ into the World

It seems that almost everyone loves the Christmas story from the Bible. The characters; the Virgin Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the wise men, the Inn with no room and of course the little baby Jesus in swaddling cloths laying in a manger. But the narrative has an even bigger implication. God himself becoming man. We call this the incarnation which literally means the “act of being made flesh” and in Christian theology this means that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to earth and took on human form. John 1:14 says, “The Word (Christ) became flesh and dwelt among us.”

This was not just a happenstance occurrence. It was intentional by God himself. Jesus, the Christ-man, was sent by God. 1 John 4:9 says, “In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God SENT his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.” This sending was a conscious act of love to a world that desperately needed a savior. God was the initiator and we the receivers “so that we might live through him.” In fact, Jesus Himself prays in John 17:3 that “they may know you the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have SENT.” He knew where He came from.

The sending of Jesus Christ into the world anticipated a response. John 1:12 says, “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” We must receive and believe him by faith. God sent Jesus to earth as a gift (John 3:16) and we have been invited to accept it.

Finally, Jesus Christ was sent on a rescue mission. Him coming to earth was not done to punish sinners but to redeem them. John 3:17 says, “For God did not SEND his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” Oh, that we may continue to look to Jesus as the one who came to love us and give himself for us.

Questions to Ponder

1. Do you look at the Christmas narrative as just a nice story with cute characters or do you see Jesus as the Son of God coming to rescue sinners?
2. Have you personally received and believed in Jesus Christ and accepted His free gift of salvation by faith?

Possible Prayer Points

1. Thank God for sending His Son into the world to save you.
2. Ask God to shine the light of grace in your life that you may see and love this Savior.

How do you think you should relate with God as a result of Him trying to relate to you in this way?