

Christmas Message: A Life well lived, an enduring and endeared Legacy

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Reading:

For a child is born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His Shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. [Isaiah 9:6]

The first person truly to celebrate should have been God Himself, who caused His son to be born. Furthermore, the angels and all spirit world joined together, glorifying and praising that great day. Here on earth, however, Jesus' birth was only quietly welcomed because few people knew of his coming. We can see that the birth of Jesus was truly celebrated in heaven, centering upon God, but on earth hardly any celebration took place.

[The True Meaning of Christmas, December 25, 1979, SMM]

Today is the Christmas day. Christmas is a day where believers in Christ and even non-believers celebrate the birth of Christ with gratitude. 2000 years ago Jesus lived a short life here on earth and then passed on at age 33.

Here in this era, people are living twice as long as Jesus has lived and probably even more. In the future we will live even longer. Eventually an era will come where everyone will live passed the age of 100 which means that we will be able to live 3 times longer than Jesus lived.

In this world people often jokingly say they should they live a short and thick life or a long and thin life. I see that Jesus is an example of a short and thick life.

However, looking at Jesus' life we can see what we need to do in our own lives. Jesus didn't live a short and thick life, but he lived a short and eternal life. That is why Jesus is 2017 years old. Jesus is someone who lives in many Christians in their everyday life. Jesus is a main character that is still shaping history and the future.

We are currently in an era where we are happily thinking about something. Even now through advances in the medical field and technology, we are now able to prolong the human life span. As we care about our physical life, our physical longevity. We are in a world where we must start to cultivate a 2nd life.

It is equally important that we think about two other aspects, our legacy and more significantly about our 2nd life, our life in the spirit world.

Today as we celebrate Jesus' birthday let us become people who will learn and inherit Jesus' teachings.

Sometimes faithful Christian want to experiment Jesus life course, so they carry cross.

But what we really need is to emulate, follow Jesus' life examples through what Jesus did for us while is he was alive instead of the death experience on the cross.

Jesus' public life was 3 years among his 33 years of life. However he did such an amazing work for all humankind. What did he do for us? Here are the four core gifts Jesus gave us through his death.

1. Expiation, 2. Propitiation, 3. Reconciliation, 4. Redemption

Expiation refers to the removal of our sins, and propitiation refers to the removal of God's wrath, reconciliation refers to the removal of our alienation from God. And Christ's death accomplished redemption for us. His death redeemed us from our sins.

Jesus' birth, life and death are example of what a good life ought to be. It is not simply a long life, a life of abundance and riches but a life well lived. A life well lived is an esteemed life, a life of value, it is a life whose legacy is lasting, it is a revered life. Jesus was the messiah, the savior, an excellent counselor, a prince of peace. Today, as we celebrate his life and birth, we are called to emulate his life; we are called to inherit his principles; we are called to be messiahs of a different nature, tribal messiahs.

It looks like we owe too many things to Jesus. Especially on this occasion, we want to do something for Jesus. Because today is Jesus' birthday right!

So, let us practice what Jesus did for us as a commemoration of him

Can we practice any of the 4 core things this week, or this month or throughout the entire year?

And experiencing Jesus' life course, if you can please practice all 4 of these; Expiation, Propitiation, Reconciliation, Redemption. It would be wonderful but practicing just one thing would also be fantastic.

Expiation describes an aspect of the sacrifice of Christ on our behalf. This is not easy to practice since we don't know other people. So, we can practice in our family or in our community.

*what is a good example? There are two brothers; oldest name is Las and youngest one's name is Vegas. The oldest Las' character is very soft and gentle so people like him and respect him. The youngest brother Vegas' character is very much the opposite to the other, so he made all kinds of trouble in family. One day, the two brothers were playing with a basketball in the Livingroom. Accidentally, the oldest brother broke a very expensive china antique. At that moment, the parents just came into the house and saw the broken china. The parents became so angry, and didn't even ask who broke the expensive piece. They scolded the youngest boy who had a reputation of trouble maker. The youngest boy didn't say anything to his parents and just kept asking for forgiveness. So, in this case the youngest brother scarified himself for his elder brother, and protect his brother.

Propitiation; In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to atone for our sins.[1 John 4:10]

Brother Las got the respect and trust from the family and especially from the parents. However the parents didn't trust the youngest one. When the parents got upset toward to Vegas, Las may have said to the parents, Mom and Dad I will take care of my younger brother. Please don't worry about him. I will take all responsibility from now on.

Reconciliation; So Esau bore a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him; and Esau said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob." Genesis 27:41

Redemption; When the religious crowd of Jesus' day complained that He was spending too much time with the sinners of society, Jesus told a few redemption stories. He started with the story of the lost sheep.

A man owned 100 sheep. But, one day while away from home, one of the sheep was lost. He secured the 99 sheep and went in search of the single lost sheep. He carried the lost sheep gently back to the 99. Jesus said that the man went home and threw a feast in honor of the fact that his sheep was found -- it was redeemed. Jesus' application to the religious crowd was that lost sheep (sinners) need to be found. There is rejoicing in heaven over their salvation. The ones who are religious and see no need in repentance and salvation will not be celebrated in heaven because they have not received the redemption provided by Christ. [Lost Sheep – Luke 15:1-7]

I believe we have much more lost sheep than secured one. When you just go out, it is very easy to see a lot of lost sheep.

Brothers and sisters, friends and families, let us live a life that resembles that of Jesus, let's live a life of value, a life whose legacy endures, a life which influences not only the present times but also the future. Let's live a life that will be revered by generations to come. Let's live a Christ like life. We can live such a life by dedicating ourselves to others, atoning for our sins and the sins of our community, by reconciling the fighting fraction of our community, seeking and guiding our wandering brothers and sisters back to God, and finally helping them to receive the grace of the blessing that God our Heavenly Father is yearning to bestow on every single one of us.

Dear brothers and sisters, we have about 6 days are left till 2017. Let us not dwell in the past, and let's put our effort into everything we do "right now" what True Mother emphasized at capital hill. So, we can have a bright 2017 and let us become people that can leave an imprint to this society and history like Jesus.

Can we live such a life? Can we live such a life? If we do, we would be living a Christ like life. Our lives would be lives well-lived. They will be lives whose legacy endured for generations to come. They will be celebrated lives similar to Jesus'.

God bless you and Marry Marry Christmas to you!