

JESUS, THE GREATEST GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

1 Timothy 3:16

The most precious gift ever given throughout the countless celebrations of Christmas is given by God Himself. God's gift to us is infinitely valuable for He gave us His One and Only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:16; Rom. 8:32; 2 Cor. 9:15). As we reflect on the wonderful summary of the life story of Christ, the greatest gift of Christmas, let's consider these four glorious truths about our Lord Jesus.

1. *Jesus was _____ in the flesh in His _____.*

The Apostle Paul begins the summary of Jesus' biography by pointing out that these truths concerning Jesus are the common confession and universal conviction of those who belong to Christ and the church of the living God (1 Tim. 3:15-16). Paul refers to this confession as the mystery of godliness. This mystery which is now revealed by God declares that Jesus Christ, who is the eternal God the Son, revealed Himself in human flesh in His incarnation (Phil. 2:6-7; John 1:14, Col. 2:9). The Child that was born in the manger of Bethlehem is God Himself in human form. Jesus is both fully and truly God and fully and truly man. We will miss the true message of Christmas if we fail to understand the purpose of Jesus' incarnation. Jesus was born in a manger, so that one day, He would die on the Cross. He came into this world as the God-Man to be the final and ultimate sacrifice for sin on behalf of those would believe and trust in Him (Matt. 1:21; Mark 10:45; 1 John 4:10).

2. *Jesus was _____ by the Spirit in His _____.*

Throughout Jesus' earthly life and ministry, people mocked and cast doubts on His claims as God and His pronouncement that He is the Messiah. When He was nailed on the Cross, people saw Him as a condemned criminal. Jesus died under the curse of God not for His sin, but for our sins (Isa. 53:4-6; Gal. 3:13). But Jesus did not remain on the grave. God vindicated His Son Jesus by raising Him from the dead through the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Tim. 3:16; Rom. 1:4; 1 Pet. 3:18). Jesus' resurrection was God's vindication and affirmation that He is indeed the sinless, perfect and righteous Son of God who is the divine Savior and Messiah.

3. *Jesus is _____ by angels with _____.*

The holy angels are always beholding Jesus and His saving work in awe and amazement (1 Tim. 3:16; Luke 2:14; 1 Pet. 1:12). These holy angels witnessed the resurrection of Jesus and announced to the disciples that Jesus indeed is alive and risen from the dead (Matt. 28:1-6). Though the angels had not experienced the blessing of salvation, they will forever worship God with His redeemed people and celebrate the wonder of God's salvation (Rev. 4:11-12).

4. *Jesus is _____ in glory.*

The last three phrases concerning our Lord Jesus state that He was proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world and taken up in glory (1 Tim. 3:16; Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41,47). Our Lord Jesus who has ascended into heaven and now enthroned in glory at the right hand of the Father will soon return to bring us into His eternal kingdom to be with Him forever (Eph. 1:20-21; 1 Thess. 4:16-18; Rev. 22:12).
