

J.J.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

John 1:1-3 and 14

John 1: 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

INTRODUCTION :

In 23 hours, by God's grace, I will be flying to the Philippines to be with my mom and siblings. My mom is so excited to see me. I remember one time that I told her don't worry, we regularly talk on video call. But she said, "It's still different when you're physically here with me."

Another story is that Rebecca was so excited to come home this Christmas. For more than a month, we were already talking about what we usually do during Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Because of work and she has exams, she and Josh booked a ticket for midnight of December 23 and was supposed to be here this morning. The bus was cancelled and then they tried again to leave this morning and the bus had to return to Montreal because 401 in Kingston was closed. We tried everything from bus to plane to train. There's nothing available. She wanted to be with us and we wanted that she be with us too.

Why am I telling this story?

It's because during Christmas, this is being read to us and by God's grace we will understand what this means.

The Gospel of John wrote :

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us

This is a manifestation of God's tremendous love for us.

In any relationship, you want to be with the people whom you love and Jesus manifested His love for us by becoming man and lived among us.

Now, in order for us to get the full impact of this, who is Jesus before Christmas morning?

John 1: 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning.

This means that Jesus is the eternal God.

He never needed anyone. He is self-sufficient.

The reason why we are even here is because of Him.

3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

But because of His love for us, what did He do?

Philippians 2: Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

7 rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature of a servant,

being made in human likeness

He left His glory (*John 13:3 and 17:5*) – remember He is the All-Present, it means He is above time and space and entered time and space to dwell with us... why? IT'S BECAUSE OF LOVE.

Illustration : A number of you have their loved ones go to Jesus already. Jannette is already with the Lord. I'm sure they miss her even if they know she is in a better place. But if they are to choose, I'm sure Orlan and the kids would want Jannette to be with them, healthy and strong and enjoying their Christmas together. Why? It's because they love Jannette. We know she's with the Lord and she's having the best time of her life with Him but again, if we can spend some more time with her that she's healthy and strong, and hearing her laughter again, we would want that. Why? It's because we love her.

Remember in 2016, when a grandfather and grandmother took their 3 grandchildren in the van and in a few minutes, they were killed because a billionaire's son who came home from his private jet, super drunk drove his car and crashed into the mini-van. The 3 children were partly Filipino because I think one of the parents were half-Filipino. (The woman posted, "Mahal Kita" and one of their daughter's name is Millie from Milagros)

They sued the billionaire's son for \$25M. I'm sure they got a good sum of money for that. But last year, the father of the three children who died, after Father's Day committed suicide. Why? It's because no amount of money or riches on this earth would take away the pain of losing your three children all at the same time. I'm sure the dad would give everything even his own life just to be with his children again.

It gives you an idea when man spiritually died when he first sin against God and God would do anything to get back man again because of His tremendous love. He would give anything. In fact, that's what He did.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

In short, God gave His own Son.

Why again? It's because we have to remember that we have sinned against a Holy, Holy, Holy God. Since He is Holy, it means He is good and just. This means He should punish sin. And since we sinned against a Holy and Eternal God, the only just punishment is eternal hell.

In short, you wouldn't call a judge a good judge if he just lets a thief or a murderer or a rapist go unpunished. Or you wouldn't call a judge a good judge if he only gives a murderer rapist only one day in jail. So God being good cannot let go of sin and must only give the proper punishment against that sin.

But God is also love, He doesn't want us to spend eternity in hell and be separated from Him. The only solution is someone has to pay for our sin and to die on our behalf. But no man can die for another man, He will only die for himself. Someone eternal must die to pay for an eternal punishment. The problem is God is the only one eternal and God cannot die.

In God's wisdom and knowledge, "THE WORD BECAME FLESH" God became man so He will be able to die on the cross to pay for our sin and His name is Jesus Christ.

This is the message of Christmas – God being born as man to die on the cross for our sin.

That's why "THE WORD BECAME FLESH"

Remember this while we are celebrating tonight and tomorrow.

"God became flesh in order to be with us so that we can be with Him"

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S.G.D.