

“Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery: Things that Are Revealed”

John 1:1-5

We confess that both our finitude and our sinfulness preclude the possibility of knowing God’s truth exhaustively, but we affirm that, enlightened by the Spirit of God, we can know God’s revealed truth truly. (CFC Statement of Beliefs)

The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.
(Deuteronomy 29:29)

Three Revealed Truths...

Jesus Christ is the divine Word of God made flesh (vv. 1-2)

- The Word was:

- In the beginning.

Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” (John 8:58)

- With God.
- God.

- So...

- Be staggered that v. 14 is true in light of v. 1—that God became flesh.

The supreme mystery with which the gospel confronts us lies not in the Good Friday message of atonement, nor in the Easter message of resurrection, but in the Christmas message of incarnation. The really staggering Christian claim is that Jesus of Nazareth was God made man—that the second person of the Godhead became the “second man,” that He took humanity without loss of deity, so that Jesus of Nazareth was as truly and fully divine as He was human. It is here, the thing that happened at the first Christmas, that the profoundest and most unfathomable depths of the Christian revelation lie. “The Word was made flesh” (John 1:14); God became man. (J.I. Packer)

- Be clear about God by being clear about Jesus.

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he

created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, (Hebrews 1:1-3)

- Be warned that dismissing Jesus is infinitely perilous.

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (John 3:36)

Jesus Christ is the source of all true life (vv. 3-4)

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. (Genesis 1:1-2)

- You do not have power.

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

- The Word does have power.

As God's people hear, believe, and do the Word, they are equipped as disciples of Christ and witnesses to the gospel. (CFC Statement of Beliefs)

Jesus Christ is the light that overcomes all darkness (v. 5)

- Don't minimize the need for the Light.

For many, Christianity is just a beautiful dream. It's a world in which everyday reality goes a bit blurred. It's nostalgic, cosy, and comforting. But real Christianity isn't like that at all. Take Christmas, for instance: a season of nostalgia, of carols and candles and firelight and happy children. But that misses the point completely. Christmas is not a reminder that the world is really quite a nice old place. It reminds us that the world is a shockingly bad old place, where wickedness flourishes unchecked, where children are murdered, where civilized countries make a lot of money by selling weapons to uncivilized ones so they can blow each other apart. Christmas is God lighting a candle; and you don't light a candle in a room that's already full of sunlight. You light a candle in a room that's so murky that the candle, when lit, reveals just how bad things really are. The light shines in the darkness, says St. John, and the darkness has not overcome it. (N.T. Wright)

- Don't mistake the power of the Light.