

The Mystery Behind Christmas

“God Incarnate”

Philippians 2:6-11

Intro: The mystery behind Christmas concerns God becoming man. This is called the “incarnation.” The Lord Jesus Christ, although eternally God, chose to empty Himself of His independent use of His divine attributes in order to save a sinful people. As a result, He has been highly exalted to a position of sovereign authority over all.

I. His Eternal Nature 2:6

- A. Christ existed in the form of God (v. 6a)
- B. Christ did not regard His equality with God as something to be grasped (v. 6b)

II. His Emptying 2:7-8

- A. His self-emptying—*kenosis* (v. 7a)
- B. His taking on the form of a servant (v. 7b)
- C. His sacrificial death (v. 8)

III. His Exalted Position 2:9-11

Through self-denial and obedience to the Fathers' will, Christ Jesus won sovereignty over all peoples and things (v. 10).

Conclusion:

Paul exhorts believers to follow Christ's example of humility. The message for you and me this Christmas is: ***“Let the mind of Christ be in you!”*** Let the Holy Spirit take control of you just as Christ Jesus did. May God help us to surrender to Christ this Christmas, so we can begin to truly live!