

A Time for Healing

Luke 2: 1 – 20

On a pastoral and, at the same time, a personal note, I want to extend to each of you my own wishes that you have a very blessed Christmas in the God of our salvation: Jesus, our Immanuel!

“And it came to pass in those days.” Human history has always been involved in the march of time. For some, the days and the time goes by so very slowly while for others it goes by all too quickly leaving one to wonder where has the time gone. In both cases, we may find distress over lost opportunities, mistakes we have made, decisions made that turned out to be less than perfect, and the like. A focus on these kinds of things can leave one almost melancholy with many ambivalent feelings that are difficult to find our course through. One brother in the Lord spoke these words in my presence this year: “There’s never enough time.” The time referenced here is set in the midst of time that runs out that leaves us wanting for more while knowing that it cannot be now.

“And it came to pass in those days.” While time marches on beyond our control, God, the Creator, stands firmly in control of time. It is His and exists for the accomplishment of His purposes. As God stands above time, He works in His own way and “time.” God stands over time in that He operates in the fullness of time. God operates at the right time. The Scripture is filled with example after example of God working in the fullness of time. The revelation of himself to Moses and Elijah, the deliverance of Israel from bondage in Egypt, the entrance into the promised land, the coming of John the Baptist, the announcement of Gabriel to Mary that she would be the mother of the Lord, to Joseph, and many others. Paul speaks thus: “When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His son, born of a woman, born under law to redeem those under the law that we might receive the adoption as sons.” The action of God in time extends to the moment of redemption on the cross also: “You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.”

We have gathered in this time and in this place to behold once again the telling of God’s action in time when the days were accomplished. *[At this place the reader would wish to turn and read Luke 2: 1 – 20]*

And it came to pass....prophecy was fulfilled and God’s plan was made known in the person of Jesus! The virgin gave birth to a son! This news rings out in the stillness of a night! “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord!” Angelic hosts shatter the night with a heavenly song of glory “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” Shepherds went quickly to see the sign given to them and beholding the babe lying in a manger wrapped in swaddling clothes. The news rang out with the voices of the shepherds causing people to wonder at the news. The shepherds returned to their life in the field changed as they now glorified and praised God for all the things they had heard and seen which was exactly as it was made known to them.

And it came to pass that we are here tonight. For this night we also come to have our lives changed with the news that we hold so dear. In one sense, we come to gather that it may come to pass that our lives experience a time for healing in our Savior. Oh how we need that healing! Some gather about Jesus' birth without ever leaving behind bitterness which disrupts their life. Some gather about Jesus' birth without ever forgiving the one who has sinned against them. Some gather about Jesus' birth in the quietness of a night only to later have it broken by anger erupting into hateful and spiteful actions. Some will gather in the quietness of this night to bask in the warm glow of Christmas time only to walk away as if it makes no difference in the night and days ahead.

Look deeply into your heart! On this night let loose of your hurts, your bitterness, your anger, and your disappointments. Let loose of them and leave them here with the Lord, the God of your salvation. He is stronger than we and is fully capable to bear them and in fact already has! On this day of the Lord's birth we may receive healing as God said through Malachi "But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings." This sun of righteousness is the Son of God sent from heaven to be our Savior. This sun of righteousness is the Son of God who gave himself as the atoning sacrifice for our sins on the cross. This sun of righteousness is the Son of God who gloriously walks out of the grave holding victory forever over sin, death, and Satan.

Christmas time is a time for healing. It is the time in which God dwells with man as man himself so show us the true humanity which he holds in store for us. This is a time for healing where on earth, God's peace rests. The peace in which our sins are forgiven and removed as far as the east is from the west. Peace in which God no longer remembers our sins. His healing peace is sufficient enough to send us forth into this night with newness and with healing.

I do pray that the healing that you seek AND **receive** this night does not stay here for one night but that it walks with you in the days that are yet to come to pass. Be assured that God who stands over time can make it so for you! The proof????...."For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord."