

3-1 Honoring Christ's Birth

- I. The reliability of Scripture—confirmation of the accuracy of Isaiah's prophecy
 - A. The prophecy of a virgin (Matt 1:22-23; Is 7:10-12)
 - B. The prophecy of an heir (2 Sam 7:16; Jer 22:30; Lk 3:31)
 - C. The prophecy of a place (Mic 5:2; Matt 2:6; Lk 2:1)
- II. The uniqueness of Christ
 - A. The uniqueness of the birth (Jn 1:1, 14; Phil 2:6-7; Lk 1:43; Lk 2:20, 28, 38; Matt 2:11)
 - 1. Fully God
 - 2. Fully man
 - B. The reasons for the incarnation
 - 1. To reveal Himself to man in a new way (Col 1:15)
 - 2. To save His people from their sin (Matthew 1:21; Romans 5:19)
 - 3. To set an example of holy living (1 Peter 2:21)
 - 4. To experience what we experience (Heb 2:17-18; 4:15)
- III. The necessity of reproach (Luke 1:46-55; John 8:41)
 - A. A great honor
 - B. A great embarrassment

dayspring—sunrise

virgin—morally pure unmarried woman

purification—6-week period after childbirth during which a woman and her new child were ceremonially impure

Three applications:

1. *Trust the Word of God.*
2. *Appreciate the fact that God became man.*
3. *Bear reproach as a believer.*

hosanna—exclamation of welcome meaning "save, I pray"

Son of David—descendant of David

3-2 Respecting Christ's Authority

- I. The authority of the **Prophet: Baptism**
 - A. The Son's sinlessness (Matthew 3:13-15)—gave Christ preaching authority
 - B. The Spirit's empowerment (Matthew 3:16; Luke 4:18-19; Isaiah 61:1-2)—dove is symbolic
 - 1. Of sinless purity
 - 2. Of gentleness—Christ would never abuse His power
 - C. The Father's approval (Matthew 3:17)
- II. The authority of the **King: Triumphal Entry**
 - A. The use of the donkey (Matthew 21:1-3; Numbers 19:2; Deuteronomy 21:3; 1 Samuel 6:7; Matthew 21:5; Zechariah 9:9)
 - B. The response of the crowd (Matthew 21:8-9; 2 Kings 9:13; Luke 19:38; Mark 11:10; Matthew 21:10-11)
- III. The authority of the **Priest (Luke 24:50-53): Ascension**
 - A. Christ's ascension anticipates His Second Coming (Acts 1:9-11)
 - B. Christ's perpetual presence with the Father in our behalf (Mark 16:19; Hebrews 2: 17-18; 4:15; 7:24-25; 8:1; 4:16)

3-3 Resisting Sin: Christ's Temptation

- I. The first forty days of temptation (Luke 4: 1-2)—stressful environment
- II. The final attack
 - A. The temptation to turn stones to bread (Luke 4:3-4; Deuteronomy 8:3)
 - 1. Obedience is more important than meeting physical needs
 - 2. Impatience (violation of God's timing) is simply rejecting dependence on God
 - B. The temptation to rule the world (Luke 4:5-8; Deuteronomy 6:13; 10:20)
 - 1. Tempted to use the wrong means to do God's work
 - 2. Tempted to ascribe authority to Satan as the ruler of the world
 - C. The temptation to jump from the temple (Luke 4:9-13; Psalm 91:11-12; Deuteronomy 6:16)
 - 1. Tempted to draw attention to Himself
 - 2. Tempted to manipulate God
- III. Conclusion (Hebrews 2:18; Psalm 119:11)
 - A. Helps us to know He understands
 - B. He combatted temptation with the written Word

pinnacle—highest point
wilderness—uninhabited area or desert
glory—majestic splendor and beauty
transfigured—transformed or changed in physical appearance
cloud—visible symbol of God's presence

3-4 Keeping Christ First: Transfiguration

- I. Christ's preeminence revealed (Luke 9:27-31)
 - A. "Metamorphosis"
 - B. Revealed His character through the veil of human flesh
 - C. Same change we should experience in Christ (Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18)
- II. Christ's preeminence overlooked (Luke 9:32-33)—Moses and Elijah
- III. Christ's preeminence confirmed (Luke 9:34-36)
 - A. Clouds symbolized the presence of God (Exodus 13:21-22; Daniel 7:13; Matthew 24:30; Acts 1:9)
 - B. The Father spoke to establish Christ's absolute preeminence

3-5 Trusting in Christ's Death: Crucifixion

- I. Suffering—physical and spiritual
 - A. During the trial (Matthew 27:27-32)
 - B. On the cross
 - 1. Crucified (Matthew 27:33-37)
 - 2. Ridiculed (Matthew 27:38-44)
- II. Death (Matthew 27:45-50)
 - A. Uniquely an act of Christ's will
 - B. Exact hour the Passover lamb was being slain in the temple
- III. Authentication (Matthew 27:51-56)—God sent miracles right after Christ's death
 - A. Rending of the veil in the temple
 - B. Earthquake and resurrection of saints

crucify—to execute by nailing or binding to a cross
Golgotha—skull-shaped hill outside Jerusalem
praetorium—government headquarters or judgment hall
gall—myrrh mixes in sour wine as a mild painkiller

3-6 Living for the Living Christ: Resurrection

- I. Introduction—Profound implications
 - A. Christianity is not merely a system
 - B. Christianity is a relationship with the living Christ
- II. The proof of the Resurrection
 - A. The deliberate burial (Matthew 27:57-61)
 - B. The secure tomb (Matthew 27:62-66)
 - C. The angel's message (Matthew 28:1-7)
 - D. The visible Christ (Matthew 28:8-20)
- III. The point of the Resurrection
 - A. A physical reality (Luke 24:36-48)
 - B. A different relationship (John 20:26-29; Luke 24:13-35)
 - C. A new worldwide mission (Matthew 28:18-20)
 - D. A precursor of the Second Coming (Acts 1:8-11)
- IV. The power of the Resurrection—central to the rest of the New Testament
 - A. The foundation of our faith (1 Cor. 15:12-23)
 - B. The basis of Christ's ongoing ministry (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:8-13; Romans 8:34; 1 Timothy 2:5-6)