

Christmas Eve, 12/ 24/ 24

1. Isn't it strange that we are all gathered here to commemorate/celebrate the birth of a poor Hebrew baby in an insignificant village in Judea over 2000 years ago?
2. Yet here we are.
3. Stranger yet is the impact that Christ has made upon the world. Christianity is the air that we breathe.
4. Based upon the notion that every human being is made in the image of God. Right at the beginning of the bible.
5. Clarify – this was given by God first to the Hebrews, but Judaism is an insular system, it is a starting point, almost defensive in its posture toward the world.
6. Christ and Christianity was required in order to extend the truth that every person is created in the image of God to the world.
7. That truth, embodied in Christ, the Incarnate Word, had, in a sense made us all Christians.
8. I would contend that anytime you are upset at injustice, any time you think or say “that’s unfair”, anytime you recoil at the evil of slavery,

this reaction is a direct result of that birth that we remember this night.

9. Where you eliminate Christ, you eliminate justice and revert to tribalism, sophisticated tribalism perhaps, but might makes right tribalism none the less.
10. Our entire culture hinges upon that insignificant birth way back there in that lowly stable in Bethlehem so many years ago.
11. This relationship is not only improbable, it is impossible. And yet, there it is.
12. The explanation? Jesus Christ is God Incarnate, He entered into His creation to save us when we were lost and fallen, and now ever person is confronted by Advent of Christ. This is the only explanation.
13. The only question that remains is, will you come to the stable and worship Him whose birth changed and changes everything. Will you allow Him to change you?
14. Putting our blinders on and pretending that Christ wasn't born, that He doesn't exist, or denying the impact that He has made on ... well ... on everything, won't cut it.

15. Don't let this season, slip away. Don't put this off any longer.
16. Let us come to the cradles, bringing the only gift that Christ wants, the gift of ourselves, and with the shepherds, and with the angels of the heavenly host, and with the wisest of the whole world, let us bow the knee in worship of our God.
17. In the Name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Ghost, AMEN.