

Born to Give Us Second Birth

Text: Luke 2:21-35; and Romans 5:12-21

Theme: Christmas, Incarnation, Salvation,

- **Hark the Herald Angels Sing** was written by Charles Wesley (1707-88), and first published in 1739 as 'Hark, how all the welkin rings/Glory to the King of Kings'. In 1753, for reasons that are not clear, the more Calvinistically inclined George Whitefield, altered the first two lines to their present form, as well as cutting a large number of extra verses. Many regret those excisions: Wesley's original proclaims what he calls 'an ecotheology', in which Christ is concerned 'with redeeming the whole environment and not just the human part of creation.'
- Nonetheless we have forever these beautiful lyrics...

Hark the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn king"
Peace on earth, and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic host proclaim
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King.

- The Gospel in a Christmas Carol. And thanks to classic Christmas movies like "It's a Wonderful Life", the lyrics of Hark the Herald Angels Sing will continue to fill homes and hopefully hearts every Christmas time. That Jesus was born to save us!

- Simeon got to see that salvation with his own eyes! I find the account of Simeon so moving in Luke 2! Old Simeon faithfully and patiently waiting for salvation to come - he was waiting for the comfort – the encouragement for his nation. For Messiah to come! Then one day He’s there! Right in front of him!
- **Luke 2:28–32 – “Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all people, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”**
- What he was waiting for he finally got to see! So many didn’t!
- Today we look back by faith. Simeon even had a privilege we do not have. Our physical eyes cannot see Jesus like Simeon got to. Yet Jesus said you are blessed if you believe without seeing. One day in the future our eyes will behold him, just like Simeon, but for now we walk by faith and not sight.
- So a good reminder for us as time is on our minds this morning– we have begun a new year – 2017 – the reminder is that our salvation is by faith not sight and it is past, present, and future all at the same time and all anchored in Jesus!
- The apostle Paul explained it so well to the Church at Rome in Romans 5. Jesus the 2nd Adam. Born to give us second birth! Paul does this amazing contrast and comparison between the first Adam and the damage he did to the human race **vs. Jesus** the 2nd Adam and all the healing he brought to the human race. (Follow Paul’s reasoning...)

The 1st Adam (My namesake)	Christ – the 2nd Adam (My spiritual namesake)
<p>Sin entered the world through him Death entered the world through him Adam’s trespass brought devastating consequences. One man’s sin brought sin and death to every human being since!!</p> <p>Adam sinned. Judgment followed and the result was condemnation of the entire human race!</p>	<p>But God’s gift and grace to us is amazing. It is not like the trespass. Through one man – Jesus Christ – grace, forgiveness and salvation is offered for all!</p>

<p>Adam brought death to us. One trespass brought condemnation.</p> <p>Through the disobedience of one man (Adam) we were all made sinners.</p>	<p>BUT...the gift of God in Jesus followed many sins...and the result – justification! Being declared right with God while still sinners!</p> <p>But through one act of righteousness brought justification and life to all who believe!</p> <p>So through the obedience of one man (Jesus), we were all made righteous.</p> <p>GRACE REIGNS! Grace is greater than all our sin! HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!</p>
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- **God formed us. Sin deformed us (in Adam). Jesus Christ transforms us!** (I watched the sunrise this morning change the landscape. The Son changes everything)
- This is why Jesus was born – to give us second birth! To experience this second birth that Jesus brings is THE MOST IMPORTANT experience needed in life. We have a lot of beautiful experiences in this life. Your physical birth was most important. It gave you life. But next in importance is your spiritual birth – without which you cannot be saved. Each of us must be born again, born of God’s Spirit, regenerated. This is experienced only through Jesus and Romans 5 has reminded us of why – **because Jesus is the one and only second Adam.** The first Adam deformed us. The second Adam – Jesus is the only one who can transform us and give us eternal life!
- If you have not yet - may you begin this New Year trusting in Christ alone for your salvation! Why Jesus alone? Because He’s the Gift. He’s the grace. He’s the one who justifies you. He’s the one who make you righteous. No other can! **Mild he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.** Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King!
- Prayer!
- Close with words to Softly and Tenderly. Sing this song. Respond to Jesus and then Ruth Johnston is going to come and lead us to Communion – the elements of which represent for us – the new birth!