

## All Is Well At Christmas

Dr. Wendell Lang

Surrey Hills Baptist Church

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John 1:1-5

It was 30 years ago this past week (December 8), and people have been doing some things to remember it. You might remember the name Mark Chapman. He is the one who put two rounds in the back of John Lennon and ended up killing him. John Lennon was one of the “Fab Four,” one of the *Beatles* who in 1964 came over and really changed our world as we knew it. John Lennon started out writing things like “Love Me Do” and “I Want to Hold Your Hand” and very simple, meaningful, lovey-dovey, somewhat bubblegum-type songs. Then he transcended into having this utopian view—that is that the world would become a perfect place. It was kind of a secular humanistic view in which he would write words like these:

“Imagine there's no heaven  
It's easy if you try  
No hell below us  
Above us only sky  
Imagine all the people  
Living for today...

Imagine there's no countries  
It isn't hard to do  
Nothing to kill or die for  
And no religion too”

I'm not really sure that Jesus would have been too wooed by John Lennon's kind of cynical view of the world—that the world could become a better place simply by everyone being better people. The truth of the matter is that it does not work that way. We are not going to get better and better because there is something innate within us; there is a tendency toward sin.

We have our granddaughter with us today. She is 19 months old. She has been with us all week, and it has been exhilaratingly exhausting. There is a reason you have children when you are younger. We have not ever really taught her to say “No.” We have never really taught her to be defiant. We have never really taught her to disobey because there is something innate. There is something within us. There is a tendency. There is a propensity. There is a proclivity. There is something within us; we are going to sin.

So Jesus came into the world to make a dark world light, to make a sinful world forgiven. For me to imagine there's no Christmas is horrifying. Today's passage is not your prototypical passage for scripture for Christmas. We are not going to talk about angels. We are not going to talk about manger scenes or donkeys or wise men or shepherds. We are going to allow John to put us into some context about what Christmas is really all about. For me to imagine there is no heaven or to imagine there is no Christmas would be a terrible thing because what I believe we will find today is that when we understand who Jesus is then we will be able to say, “All is well at Christmas.”

## I. All Is Well With The Person Of Christmas (John 1:1-2)

We are going to read what is an awesome, an unbelievable passage of scripture, one of which you are familiar with. Many of you could probably quote this passage of scripture on your own. The context which John the author puts for us at Christmas is about the person of Christmas.

John 1:1, "*In the beginning was the Word.*" If you write in your Bible, you could write out right beside that word "Jesus." I am going to show you. Allow your eyes to go all the way down to John 1:14, "*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.*" So when the Bible says, "*In the beginning was the Word,*" look in verse 14, "*The Word became flesh.*" *The Word* is Jesus.

"*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*" Who is *The Word*? Jesus is *The Word*, and "*the Word was God.*" This is the context of Christmas. This is the backdrop of what all that we are entering into is about this year. John 1:2, "*He was with God in the beginning.*" Jesus is the only guy older than his mother. He was with God in the beginning. Therefore, we understand the beginning for Jesus was not Bethlehem. For Jesus, the beginning was the beginning, but His birth was in Bethlehem.

John 1:3, "*Through him.*" Who is Him? *The Word*. Who is *The Word*? Jesus. "*Through Him all things were made; without Him,*" Him being *The Word*; *The Word* being Jesus; Jesus being God, "*nothing was made that has been made.*"<sup>4</sup> *In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.*<sup>5</sup> *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*" All is well.

We understand in verses 1 and 2 that all is well when we understand the person of Christmas. The truth is, there are many distractions. I remember one year in 25 days in December, Pam and I went to over 30 Christmas functions. What you will find is if you invite us we will come. Christmas can have with it so many distractions like personalities, like presents, like practices. As a matter of fact, you may know this but many of the practices that we involve ourselves with at Christmas are really nothing more than pagan practices that somewhere along the line the Christian church has high-jacked and made them their own. We will talk about that at another time, but the truth of the matter is there are many distractions. So how do we keep the main thing the main thing at Christmas?

### A. He is Eternally God

We notice that the Bible says, "*In the beginning.*" What does that sound like? Genesis 1:1. "*In the beginning.*" What we see from this is that Jesus is in the beginning. He is eternally God.

There is an interesting word there. John 1:1, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God.*" That word "was" is a word that in its construction is a past tense word that has continuous action. And so He was God, but He continues to be God in the present as well. *The Word* always was God, and Jesus is *The Word*.

I'm a sentimental person in some ways. I read this story about a mail carrier who had lost his wife a couple of months before Christmas. The mail carrier was doing his job for the day which was sorting the mail that had to do with "Dear Santa" letters. He found this "Dear Santa" letter, and the flap happened to be open, and he looked inside. Now, this is the same man who had lost his wife two months previous. He sees that the letter to Santa is from his daughter—his very own daughter. The mail carrier reads the letter which says this:

Dear Santa,

My Mommy died two months ago, and since then my Daddy has been crying himself to sleep every night. He says only eternity will heal him. Santa, would you please send a bit of eternity to my dad at Christmas.

That is exactly what God did. God sent not only a bit of eternity, but God sent the eternal eternity. Eternity is from now and forevermore, and God sent eternity in the person of Jesus.

### *B. He is Equally God*

Jesus is eternally God, but He is also equally God. “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*” I don’t hear a lot of people preaching this, but I want to be definitively clear. I don’t want there to be any doubt today—Jesus is God! Jesus is the incarnation, the flesh of God. God sent a part of Himself. Jesus *The Word* is God.

There is an interesting phrase there. “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*” That word “word” in the original language is the word *logos*. The word *logos* means *speech* or *reasoning* or *explanation*. That is who Jesus is. Jesus becomes the visible expression of the invisible thought. Jesus is *The Word* that was God. The Bible says in John 1:2, “*He was with God.*” That word “with” means face to face. He, Jesus, is face to face. He is God.

### *C. He is Essentially God*

Jesus is eternally God; He is equally God; but furthermore He is essentially God. The Bible says, “*and the Word was God.*” This passage of scripture is the clearest expression of the deity (the fact that Jesus is God) of anything that we have in Holy Scripture. This is an unbelievable passage. It tells us the significance of the cross; He was God. It tells us the significance of Him being beaten; He was God. It tells us the significance of the resurrection; Jesus is God.

I think when we get the context of the season, it would be more than some cheesy thing of wearing a pin that says, “Jesus is the Reason for the Season.” But we will understand that indeed Jesus is the essence. He is the eternal. He is everything about the season. He is God.

In Luke 2:11, which is the typical traditional Christmas passage, the Bible says, “*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.*” The word *Christ* means “savior.” He is the Savior. He is the Messiah.

Historically at this time, those in the Middle East were expecting a Messiah to come. It is called the “Messianic Expectation.” But they had in their mind that the Messiah would come in some military fashion. He would be kicking people and taking names, and He would be in this military genre that they had in their minds. Instead, how did Christ come? He didn’t come on a white horse in military fashion. What did He come riding in on? A beast of burden, a donkey at that Passover celebration. What we see here is that Jesus came as a suffering servant, and it really blew their minds.

## II. All Is Well With The Power Of Christmas (John 1:3)

All is well at Christmas when we understand indeed the person of Christmas is Jesus. But all is well, furthermore, when we understand the power of Christ. Notice what the Bible says in John 1:3, *“Through him all things were made.”* This is the power.

If you were to ask someone on the street, “What is the most significant miracle that God has performed?” Well, someone might indeed say, “Creation ex nihilo.” That means “out of nothing.” Someone else might say, “Well, the greatest expression of God’s power has to be the resurrection because God made something dead become alive—by the way, never to die again. But I suggest to you today that when God allowed deity to be draped in humanity, that may well be the greatest feat that our God the Father ever created. Listen to what the Bible has to say about this. In Philippians 2:5-8, *“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant.”* God took on the form of man. This is the context. If we don’t get this message, all of the angel messages and all of the shepherd messages and all of the wise men messages won’t mean anything unless we understand the significance of that baby who lay in the manger. The Christ child was God. He is the very maker of creation. Someone has said this, “He is the glue of the galaxies.” He holds it all together. Jesus came that dead men may live, and the lesson is that God is in control even at Christmas.

It is frenetic this time of the year. I don’t sleep like I wish I did. I did some things this year not because I wanted to be out on Black Friday but because I was awake. I wanted to see if they really had any of these TVs they had been advertising, and lo and behold they did. They had 8; I was number 12 in line. I didn’t get a new TV this year, but I was out by myself. It was amazing out frenetic it was. I don’t know that anyone was thinking about the Christ child. I don’t know that anyone was thinking about God coming in the flesh. I think they were possessed by all the surroundings and the accoutrements of Christmas, and it is easy for us to do that, isn’t it? It is kind of easy to get caught up in everything.

## III. All Is Well With The Purpose of Christmas

I want to share with you today that all is well when we understand the person of Christmas. All is well when we understand the power of Christmas; He created everything. But also, all is well when we understand the purpose of Christmas. Why in the world would the God of all creation send Himself to become one of us? Why? Why would God do that? I think it is a very good question, but the answer is pretty clear, and it is found in Ephesians 2:1-2. Listen to the Bible, *“<sup>1</sup>And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; <sup>2</sup>Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.”* In other words, we blew it. And we became what the Bible calls an enemy of God. So, God sent Himself.

We used to live in northwest Arkansas. Have you ever been to a chicken farm? We lived right next to a chicken house. One time this guy asked me to go to Tyson and watch how they process them. They do different things to take care of it. It reminded me of a story of the daddy who is going to show junior how things really happen with the chicken. So he takes junior out, and he gets a big ax. He lays the bird down on the stump, and he cuts his head off. And that chicken is running around and running in circles, and junior says to daddy, “Look, Daddy! That chicken is running around, and he does not even know he is dead!” The truth is that there are people today who are spiritually dead, spiritually separated from their head, spiritually separated from God. They are running around, thinking they are alive, but they are really spiritually dead. That is why Jesus came.

The Bible says that He came to bring light into the darkness. Historically at this time there was an inter-testamental time between the Old Testament and the New Testament, and there was really no scripture being written. It was called spiritually "The Dark Ages." It was a very dark time spiritually. When the Bible says that Jesus came to be light, He was that shaft of light into a dark world. It was very significant. Notice it says in John 1:7, "*He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.*" So John is testifying of the fact that Jesus is the Light of the world.

I share with you today that real life is more than eating and taking breath and loving, but real life is found in knowing God through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Listen to John 8:12, "*When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* It all began with "*Let there be light.*" (Genesis 1:3) It comes full circle.

The story is told of a fellow who was inebriated. He was down on his hands and knees, and he was looking for his wallet. A buddy came up to him and said, "Well, let me help you." So the buddy gets down on the knees and says, "What are we looking for?" The man says, "We're looking for my wallet." And the guy says to the drunk, "Is this where you dropped it?" The man says, "No, I dropped it over there, but there is not a light over there." The truth of the matter is, this season, this year, this day, there are going to be people looking for the light. They are going to be gravitationally pulled to the Light of the world. They are not going to be pulled by your presents or even your poinsettias or by trees or by trimmings, but they are going to be pulled to someone who has something different in their life, someone who has Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "*And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.*" (John 12:32)

This year, I want you to be able to say, "All is well because I know the person of Christmas. I have a vital relationship with Jesus Christ. All is well because I have experienced the power of Christmas by having a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. All is well because I have experienced the ultimate purpose of Christmas and that is that we might see the Light."