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The Person of Christ (Worldview—Biblical Theology)

A. Theme: The Person of Jesus Christ

B. Purpose

The purpose of this series is to focus on the person and work of Jesus Christ and the resulting desire to live in obedience to his lordship. **This series was used in the context of Advent.**

C. Evangelism, Apologetics, Education

This series of messages provides an opportunity to clarify what it means to turn to Jesus Christ and what happens to those who do so. Men and women who are without Christ live in the kingdom of darkness, where sin and death reign (Col. 1 and Matt. 2). When they turn to Christ, they are introduced into the kingdom of life.

The emphasis on kingdom living also represents an opportunity to remind non-Christians and Christians alike that we are called to live differently, not because of a set of new rules, but in gratefulness for what Christ has done and to reflect our new identity as Kingdom citizens (Matt. 21). Defining the calling to live as Kingdom people as an expression of gratitude for what Christ has done for us is the best way to immunize ourselves against legalism.

D. Themes

Message 1

Focus on Christ through whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Col. 1:14).

In Colossians 1:13, Paul expresses this truth in terms of having been rescued from the “dominion of darkness and has brought us into the kingdom of the Son” (NIV).

Because of what the Father has done for us, we are exhorted to live a “life worthy of the Lord” (v. 10). Paul exhorts his readers to please him by doing two things:

*by bearing fruit in every good work AND

*growing in the knowledge of God

Living “right” and cultivating our knowledge of God are two themes that Paul often brings up. One does not go without the other. Right behaviour is always accompanied by accurate knowledge (see also Rom. 12:1-2). This series could be used as logical follow up to the series on God, in which the notion of a theological framework was introduced.

Message 2

Continue the theme of right living (living in thankfulness—Col. 2:6-7) and sincere and well-intentioned service (Matt. 21:28-31).

Message 3

Emphasize the victory of Christ over death (Matt. 2:13-23). The story of the “Slaughter of the Innocents” teaches two things:

- 1) It reminds us of the awful condition we are in and the powerful forces that are devoted to opposing God. The very birth of the savior of the world resulted and was accompanied by murder: the worst and most scandalous kind of slaughter; the merciless elimination of defenseless children.
- 2) Jesus’ victory over Herod symbolizes the fact that evil will not ultimately have victory. Jesus’ victory over Herod is the sign that Jesus will be victorious over all evil.

Message 4

Continue the theme of Kingdom living by looking at one of the most remarkable examples of outrageous self-giving in the New Testament: The woman who anoints Jesus. This message will both enable us to close the loop on living for Jesus Christ in gratitude and to anticipate the New Year in the light of what Christ has done for us and what our response must be (Mark 14:3-9).