

Christmas Message 2009: “God’s Word Becomes Flesh!”

“In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son” (Heb 1:1). Christmas is a time God speaks to us in a way unknown to previous generations. He speaks to us, not in some abstract or unclear terms but definitively in a concrete manner through his Son made man – the Perfect Image of God. What exactly is the message he is communicating to us at Christmas? Simply put, God is saying, “I love you”, “I’ve come to live with you”. “I am Emmanuel, ‘God with us’.”

We had broken our relationship with God through our sins and failings. But God refused to break his relationship with us. Rather, he came down from heaven to seek us out, to restore the broken relationship and to save us. Are there any people you have broken up with in your human relationships and have vowed never to have anything to do with, as long as you live? Christmas calls for healing of all past hurts. It calls for reconciliation. God has come to reconcile us to himself and to one another. Let us yield to his loving, healing touch and become “reconciled reconcilers”

God’s incarnation has transformed religion forever. “And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth”. Have you ever wondered why there are so many religions in the world? Before God became man, it was easy to speculate about God in the most general and ambiguous ways. Of course, there was no way to verify God. This gave rise to so many religions and philosophical thought systems, all trying to present their own view about who God is. All these religious pluralisms are now overtaken by this epic event of C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S. God has come down, at last, to speak for himself and to set the record straight, as Pope John Paul II rightfully observed:

Here we touch upon *the essential point by which Christianity differs from all the other religions*, by which *man's search for God* has been expressed from earliest times. Christianity ... is not simply a case of man seeking God, but of God who comes in Person to speak to man of himself and to show him the path by which he may be reached In Christ, religion is no longer a "blind search for God" (cf. *Acts 17:27*) but the *response of faith* to God who reveals himself.... Jesus Christ is the new beginning of everything. *Christ is thus the fulfillment of the yearning of all the world's religions and, as such, he is their sole and definitive completion....* The religion founded upon Jesus Christ is a *religion of glory....*” (John Paul II, *Tertio Millennio Adveniente*, 6).

We have no more reason to be confused. Therefore, “Go, tell it on the mountains, over the hills and everywhere; that Jesus Christ is born”. Happy Christmas!