



Spirit of Grace

Herald

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Babies, Christmas, and Jesus

It is amazing just how much nearly everybody loves babies. Even hard-boiled grumpy old men and women seem to melt when near a baby. Suddenly all the veneer of hardness is stripped away, their voice softens, and they often talk to the

baby in language and mannerisms that they never use with anyone else. You might suppose it is because babies are so cute – and they assuredly are. But I think it is more than this. Babies are entirely inoffensive. We don't have to be on our guard with them. There is no fear that they will judge us, condemn us, or argue with us. They simply lie around in their cuteness, making little baby sounds, mindless of who may be in their presence.

I think that this perhaps comes into play in the way nearly everyone loves and celebrates Christmas, and few seem to have a problem with Jesus the baby, as He lay in a manger, “no crying He makes” (which I suspect was not true – He was fully human as well as fully God). Jesus, as a baby, is no threat to anyone. He represents a silent, holy night when God revealed that He still cared, and cared deeply for all humanity.



The problem for some is that Jesus grew up, and did, in fact, make a little noise. He preached throughout the length and breadth of Israel. Some of the things He said were incredibly encouraging. He declared that we have a Father in heaven who loves us, and whom we can trust to fully provide for our needs. It was Jesus who made that famous announcement that “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...” And His encouragement for men and women to pray, and to expect answers from heaven is thrilling.

But He also said some things that weren't quite as positive, in the eyes of some. He declared that we have wicked hearts, from which come murder, fornication, lies, and blasphemy. He insisted that we must be born again through faith in Him, and that apart from this new birth no one will ever see the kingdom of God. And He demanded full and complete loyalty to him, and a lifestyle that embraces self-denial. It seems that this little baby, cooing innocently in the manger, grew up and had a lot to say about God and man, and the way we must live our lives.

Christmas is rightly a time to read and reflect upon the second chapter of Luke, and thrill at the angel's announcement to the Shepherds: “Unto you is born this day a Savior who is Christ the Lord.” But we greatly err

when we only think of Him as that little baby. We must see Him in Jerusalem standing in the midst of His critics, boldly declaring, “The Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”

And of course, we must recognize that Christmas would be meaningless, entirely and completely pointless if it were not for Easter. The beauty of Christmas is that the Baby became a Man, died for the sins of the world, and rose from the dead three days later.

Merry Christmas from all of us at SOGM!

Seeding the Nations



Spirit of Grace Ministries is committed to an international outreach. We believe that the distribution of our devotional teaching articles and recordings is a major means by which we can plant the seeds of the word of God in the nations of the world.

At present we have over 300 devotional articles/recordings, and this number grows every month. We believe it is time for us to begin distributing these teachings in various forms: books, booklets, mp3 files, and so forth.

We are especially interested in touching nations that have do not have the Christian resources that we have here in the United States—nations like India, Pakistan, Bhutan, and the nations of Africa.

We believe that the greatest need men and women have is the need to know about Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. We want to take some of Dennis' best articles about Jesus, and have them translated into the languages of the nations where Jesus is not so well known. We are in the process of putting together 15 of Dennis' best messages about Jesus Christ, for the purpose of creating a booklet which will focus entirely upon Jesus—His nature, His teachings, His miracles, and of course His death on the cross and resurrection.

Will you help us with this project? At present it requires nearly every penny we can raise to meet our day to day expenses and to do our African missions. If we are to seed the nations with the knowledge of Jesus Christ, we will need an increase in our regular income. But we trust that God, in His great love for the forgotten peoples of the world, will move on your hearts and provide the extra funds for us to begin to reach out in this new way, with the message of Jesus Christ.

Please pray about supporting Spirit of Grace Ministries generously, so that our outreach to the nations may not only continue, but increase in major ways.



BECOME A FRIEND IN 2017



As we approach the start of a new year, would you consider becoming a regular friend and supporter of Spirit of Grace Ministries? Our ministry can only be sustained as God moves on the hearts of tender-hearted Christians to stand with us. Please pray about joining hands with us to help us feed Christ's sheep, equip His servants, and call sinners unto Him. Friends of Grace are our supporters who contribute a minimum of \$25 per month. When you give any gift of \$300 or more you are automatically placed on our "Friends" list for one year. Not only will you be blessed by the audio teachings on CD we will send you monthly, but you will be helping us spread the word of the Lord to the nations! If this teaching ministry has been a blessing to you, please pray about regularly supporting SOGM as a Friend of Grace. With your first donation, let us know you wish to become a friend.