

## **The Wonder and Certainty of the Gospel**

### **By Bob Young**

#### **Introduction**

This sermon is an “apology”—it is a defense.

This is an unbelievable world. During the life of my grandmother (1888-1982), multiplied experiences and changes. Ununderstandable, problems.

Balance is difficult—frog in rut, why did you keep going, had to in order to avoid getting run over.

There is a wonder to life, to our world, but often hard to see. Can you see the glory of the ordinary; the wonder of a little child.

There is a wonder/mystery to Jesus Christ, 1 Tim. 3:16

The wonder of the nativity narratives is often unseen, lost in the busy-ness of the Christmas season.

God with us, Matt 1:25, with us, personal, not only with them as OT or NT persons.

Luke 1:1, things fulfilled, divine presence, it is God; Gen. 18:25.

Mystery is Paul’s word for the gospel. Formerly unseen, now revealed.

Paul gives a description of the gospel, 1 Cor. 15:1-4.

There is certainty, Luke 1:4; John 20:31; 1 John 5:12-13. Certainty comes from careful investigation.

This is the gospel of good news, Luke 2:13-14; 19:10

#### **1 The Gospel makes it possible for us to...Believe the unbelievable (wonder)**

We serve a Living God in a dynamic world.

The birth of John the Baptist

The birth of Jesus Christ, 1:45, of virgin 1:35, Son of God 1:35

The role and place of the Holy Spirit

God is transcendent, at work in our world. Have you seen him? No, it is impossible. Yet he is obvious.

Our faith is not faith in a book, but in the Christ.

Christian belief is allied with credibility.

Why? Because of the great events of history which surround Jesus Christ.

#### **2 The Gospel makes it possible for us to...Understand the ununderstandable (certainty).**

What we hold forth is not speculation.

The God who is immanent is among us. Have you seen him?

History → his-story → our story

We have orderly accounts of the things surely believed, systematic, organized.

Systematic Bible study is possible: Mark, Pastorals, 1-2 Peter, John, 1 Thess, Luke, Romans...

1:35-37, Matt 19:26; Jesus in 1:31

#### **3 The gospel makes it possible for us to...Know the unknowable (Dt 29:29)**

To know, perfect tense of “to see” in Greek

Knowing is always a matter of revelation

Revelation is best seen in the midst of the circumstances of life: prayer, E-D-P experiences, threat of Satan—will we persevere; when the heavenly meets the earthly—the permanent vs the temporal, the eternal vs the time-bound, the spiritual vs the worldly. Not preach peace without peace; not preach reconciliation in the midst of alienation.

Luke 1:2, eyewitnesses, what have we seen. That is what we can know and tell.

#### **Conclusion**

God with us (personal), Matt. 1:25; Matt. 28:20

Mary’s song is our song.

Zechariah’s song is our song.