

A newborn baby is wrapped in a white cloth, with its feet visible. The baby's hands are also visible, holding onto the cloth. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white.

“Getting Ready for Christmas”

Jn. 1:14 And **the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.**

Love Came Down

Thanksgiving is over and now the focus of most is upon Christmas. Most of modern-day preparation will center around the traditional decorations, music, food, etc. We can do those, too, but believers in Christ must begin with “the Incarnation” in order to have the proper perspective of Christmas.

1. The Perspective

a. Considering the Incarnation – “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

b. Cultivating the Inspiration

❖ As a believer has the proper perspective of Christmas, the powerful influence will be presenting the wonderful explanation of the Incarnation.

Rom. 5:8 But **God commendeth his love toward us**, in that, **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

1 Jn. 4:9 In this was **manifested the love of God toward us**, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, **that we might live through him.**

10 **Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.**

2. The “Prayer-peration”

1 Thess. 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

Phil. 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but **in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.**

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds **through Christ Jesus.**

3. The Preparing

1 Cor. 14:40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

a. Christmas savings account

b. Christmas gift list

c. Christmas food list (Mom or Grandma's special recipes)

4. The Planning

Luke 14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and **counteth the cost, whether he have *sufficient* to finish it?**

- a. Christmas decorations
- b. Christmas music
- c. Christmas cards
- d. Display a nativity scene

5. The Presenting

- a. An perpetual explanation to children about the true meaning of Christmas – via the nativity scene, the music, the cards, etc.
- b. The gifts as tokens of love

6. The Praising

- a. The Person – the Lord Jesus Christ (not Santa)

2 Cor. 9:15 Thanks *be* unto God for his unspeakable gift.

1 Chron. 16:8 **Give thanks unto the LORD**, call upon his name, **make known his deeds among the people.**

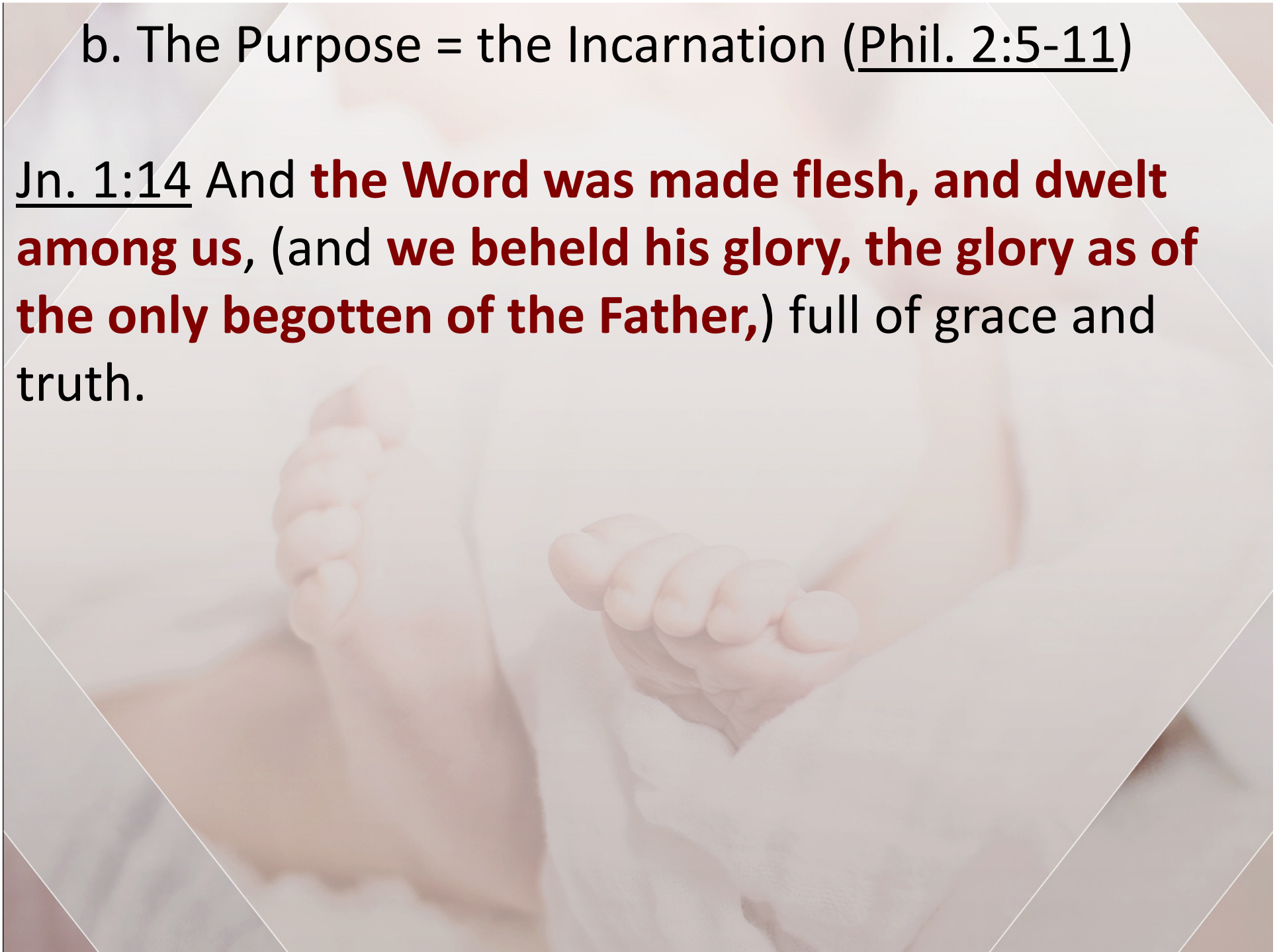
Psa. 18:49 Therefore will I give **thanks unto thee, O LORD,** **among the heathen**, and **sing praises unto thy name.**

Psa. 30:4 **Sing unto the LORD**, O ye saints of his, and **give thanks** at the remembrance of his holiness.

Col. 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks to God and the Father by him.**

b. The Purpose = the Incarnation (Phil. 2:5-11)

Jn. 1:14 And **the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us**, (and **we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father**,) full of grace and truth.



Conclusion

1 Sam. 12:20 And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet **turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart;**

21 And turn ye not aside: for *then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain.*

22 For **the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake:** because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.

23 Moreover as for me, **God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:**

24 Only **fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart:** for **consider how great *things* he hath done for you.**