

SERMON NOTES NOVEMBER 29, 2009

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The “Appearings” of Christmas

Texts - Titus 3:3-5; Galatians 4:4,5

Three Advent Realities

I. God’s Appearings - His Comings to our place - Remember

A. Characteristics of these appearings

- [1] Personally - theophanies, visions & “burdens”
- [2] Propositionally – His Word
- [3] Physically – God appears via His Creative Work

B. Purpose of the appearings

C. the Response of those to whom He appears - Remember

II. God’s Strategies - The Convergence of His plan - Reflect

the convergence at Advent involves:

- Politics – the Pax Romana
- Culture – the common Koine Greek language
- Scripture – the LLX – Septuagint version of the Old Testament
- Spirituality – the Roman tolerance of a variety of “gods”

Illustrations of “convergence” in more recent history

III. God’s Comfort - His Call to His people - Receive

Readings to encourage us not to fear...Isaiah 40; Titus 3; Matthew 1; Luke 1 & 2

Conclusion - Because of God’s appearing at Advent.. and before and after it... He wants us to:

- Remember His comings to our world
- Reflect on the convergences of history that bring about His strategies
- Receive His comfort – Fear not!