

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

December, 2023

God's Only Begotten Son

One of my favorite Christmas Scripture verses is I John 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." The marvelous incarnation in human flesh of the only begotten Son of God is not the end of the story, of course. The next verse explains that we have life through Him because God "sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (I John 4:10). Our heavenly Father gives us eternal life instead of the eternal hell that we deserve because His only begotten Son died in our place for our sins. "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (II Corinthians 5:21).

Consider, though, the significance of this revelation that Jesus Christ is the Father's "only begotten" Son. This unique phrase is used with reference to the Lord Jesus just four other times, and all five verses contain vitally important truths concerning Christ. These verses are as follows:

- (1) "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" ([John 1:14](#)).

This is the key verse of the Incarnation, assuring us that the man Jesus, who dwelt among us for a time, was also the eternal Word who was "in the beginning with God" and that He "was God" and that "all things were made by Him" ([John 1:1-3](#)). He was God the Creator manifest in the flesh.

- (2) "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him" ([John 1:18](#)).

The Father is omnipresent, and therefore invisible to mortal eyes, but as Jesus said: "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" ([John 14:9](#)). Men have seen and heard the Father in the person of His only begotten Son. Whenever God has been seen by men, it has been through the Son who has revealed Him.

- (3) "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" ([John 3:16](#)).

This verse, of course, is the most magnificent of all gospel verses; many would call it the greatest verse in the Bible. It assures us that, if we simply put our trust in our great Creator who has become man in order to die for our sins, and then to defeat death and become our Savior, our sins will be forgiven, and we shall live forever with Him.

- (4) "He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that

believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" ([John 3:18](#)).

Other than the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, "there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" ([Acts 4:12](#)). In view of all that our Creator/Savior has done for us, this verse gives clear warning that those who refuse or neglect to believe on the person and work of God's only begotten Son, will die in their sins, condemned forever by the Father whose Son they have spurned.

- (5) "... God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him" (I John 4:9).

This great Christmas verse was discussed above and is a wonderful summary verse on salvation that Christians now often write on their Christmas cards.

But why was it important for the Holy Spirit who inspired these five great verses to stress that the Lord Jesus was the incarnate *only-begotten* Son of God. Many modern English translations of the New Testament apparently *do not* consider it important, for they render the phrase merely as "only son." It is so rendered in the Living Bible, the Revised Standard Version, the God's Word translation, the 20th Century New Testament, the New Living Translation, the Moffatt, Goodspeed, and Williams translations, and many others. The New International Version renders it "one and only son." There are still a few, however—the best-known being the New American Standard and the New King James—that render it correctly (as in the King James Version) as "only begotten Son."

The Greek word for "only begotten" is *monogenes*, the very form of which clearly denotes "only generated." As monotheism connotes only one God and monosyllable means a word of only one syllable, so *monogenes* means only one genesis or only one generated—or, more simply, *only begotten*. It does *not* mean "one," or even "one and only." It is worth noting that, although Christ is called the Son, or Son of God, frequently in the New Testament, He is *never* (in the Greek original) called the "only" son of God.

The fact is, that to call Him the only Son of God would make the Bible contradict itself, for He is not the only Son of God, and certainly not the "one and only" Son of God. Angels are several times called the sons of God (e.g., Job 38:7) since they had no fathers, being directly created by God. Likewise, Adam was called the son of God ([Luke 3:38](#)), because he

was directly created. The same applies even to fallen angels (Genesis 6:2), and even to Satan (Job 1:6), because they also were created beings. The term is also used in a spiritual sense, of course, for those who have become "new creations" in Christ Jesus by faith (II Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:10; etc.). In this sense, we also are "sons of God" (e.g., I John 3:2) by special creation—not physically but spiritually.

But it is never applied in this sense to Christ, for He is not a *created* son of God (as the Jehovah's Witnesses and other cultists teach), but a *begotten* Son of God—in fact, the *only begotten* Son of God. He never had a beginning, for He was there *in* the beginning (John 1:1). In His prayer to the Father in the upper room, He spoke of "the glory which I had with thee before the world was" (John 17:5).

In that wonderful Old Testament Christmas prophecy about His coming human birth in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), we are told that His "goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." His human body was, indeed, "brought forth" from "she which travaileth" (Micah 5:2). But long before that, He had been everlastingly going forth from "the bosom of the Father." As noted in John 1:18, He was still "in the bosom of the Father," even while He was on Earth manifesting the Father.

This is beyond our full comprehension, of course, for it is all part of the mystery of the Tri-une Godhead. Christ is "the image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15), for as He said: "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30).

He is not just the *only begotten* Son of the Father, but He is also the *eternally begotten* Son of the Father. He is eternally "in His bosom," yet always "going forth" to "declare" the Father—once as the creating Word, occasionally in pre-incarnate theophanies, also through the Holy Spirit conveying God's written Word (which had been "eternally settled in heaven" [Psalm 119:89]) down to man through divinely chosen prophets, then ultimately appearing as the incarnate Word to live forever as the God/man.

The doctrine of "eternal generation" was what the older theologians called this great truth. He did not *become* the only Son by His virgin birth. He was the only begotten Son from eternity, "set up from everlasting" (Proverbs 8:23).

But that is not all. He was not just the only begotten Son in the beginning, He soon also became the "first begotten of the dead" in time (Revelation 1:5). He was "declared to be the Son of God with power, by the resurrection from the dead" (Romans 1:4). When Paul at Antioch preached on the resurrection, he declared that God "hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee" (Acts 13:33).

He is the only begotten Son eternally and now the first begotten Son by resurrection, "the first fruits of them that slept" (I Corinthians 15:20). What a wonderful Savior is Jesus Christ, our Lord!

The Lord Jesus is not only the unique Son of God by eternal generation and by resurrection, but also by divine inheritance. God has "spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things" (Hebrews 1:2).

His unique human birth, miraculously conceived with a divinely created body in a virgin's womb, had also marked Him as the incarnate Son of God. To Mary, the angel had said: "Fear not . . . that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:30,35).

His unique righteousness, in both character and action, still further marks Him as Son of God, for He alone possessed the divine nature from the beginning. He said on one occasion: "The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He seeth the Father do: for what things soever He doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise" (John 5:18).

He was even identified as God's Son by heavenly proclamation. "There came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Mark 1:11).

The Lord Jesus Christ is thus Son of God by miraculous conception and virgin birth, by heavenly proclamation, by His uniquely perfect human nature, by divine inheritance, and by triumphant resurrection.

But, most of all and first of all, He is Son of God by eternal generation—the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only begotten Son of God!

There is another great Christmas verse. "For unto us a child is born," known and beloved by every born-again Christian. That child was the infant Jesus, born of the virgin as prophesied hundreds of years in advance (Isaiah 7:14) in the little town of Bethlehem, as also prophesied (Micah 5:2). At the same time, "Unto us a son is given." That Son was the only begotten, eternally begotten Son of God. "And the government shall be upon His shoulder," for He holds the whole wide world in His hand! "And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

As one with the everlasting Father in the Triune Godhead, He is also the mighty God. He is our Creator, our Redeemer, our Resurrected Savior, our King of kings and Lord of lords. "Wherefore He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him" (Hebrews 7:25).

ICR: Morris, H. 2007. Jesus: God's Only Begotten Son. *Acts & Facts*. 36 (12): 4.

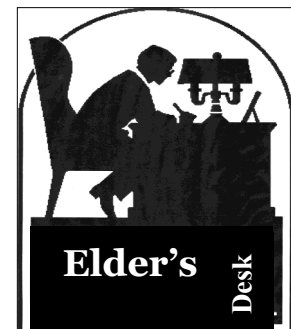
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Sunny Place Church—December Events



Worship Wednesday **December 13th**

At the home of Ruth Beierwaltes
6:00 to 8:30p.m.

There will be dinner, singing and
encouraging messages, all are welcome.
Please bring a dish to share.



2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon

Saturday, **December 9th**

11:30 a.m.

at Sunny Place Church

Come be our guest for food,
Great speakers and activities
Free event for Seniors 55 & up.



Family **Christmas** **Celebration**



Help celebrate, & bring your talents out to
honor the birth of our Lord Jesus, on
Sunday, December 10th during Worship.
Please see Wanda for info.

After Service, come to the Parsonage for the
Christmas Party dinner. Please bring a dish
to share. Meat will be provided. Please see
Carla for info.



Christmas **CAROLING**

Please join us on:

Sunday, December 17th

Needed: Singers, scripture readers, bell ringers.

Those going caroling will enjoy
a light lunch before heading out.

RSVP to Ruth



Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

"Faith in Action"

A study of the Book of James
Led by Pastor Pete

Sunday Worship Services, 10:45 a.m.

In-person and on Zoom

7:00



"The Full Measure of Joy"

A study on the complete
joy we experience in Christ.

Led by Pastor Pete
In Person and on Zoom

Our Sunday Worship Services, and Thursday night Bible Study will be held at the scheduled times.
If you would like to join us for a service or study via ZOOM, send an email with your name and contact information
to: sunnyplacecog@gmail.com to request a link to be sent to you.
You can also listen to the audio sermons, within a few days afterwards, by selecting either version on:
sunnyplacechurch.org/resources/audio-sermons.

Scripture of the Month:

The Only Begotten

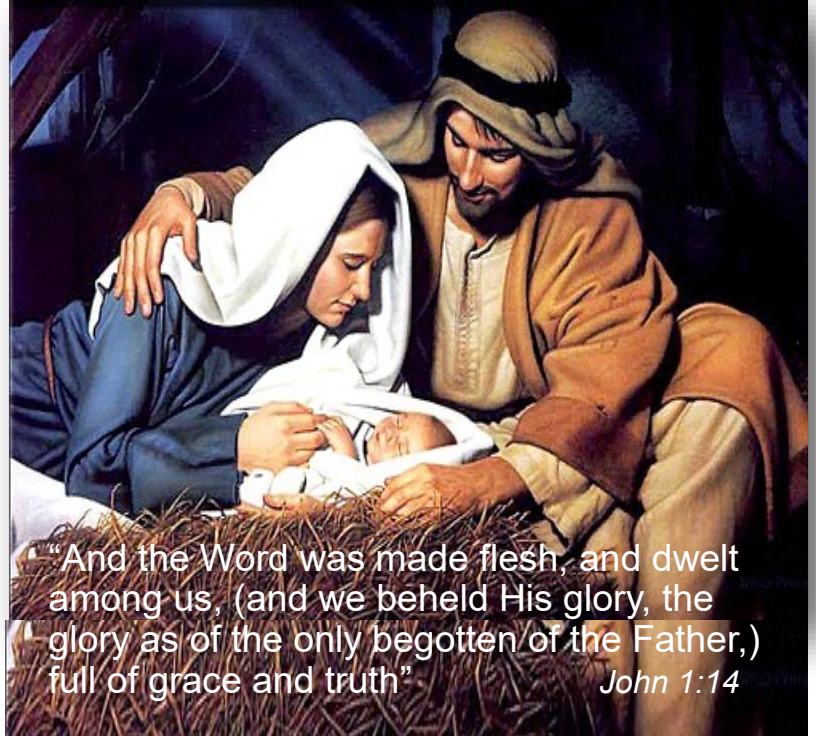
TLC

Together Loving Christ

Are you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

Join with us in our Adult Study Group
Thursday's at 7:00 p.m.

Grow in the Word!



"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" *John 1:14*



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

Visit us at: www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org

Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ

Minutes of the Elders Meeting held November 1, 2023

Attended by Pastor Pete Weber, Tim Kasza, Glenda Kasza, Phyllis Clark and Nona Koivula

Devotion Psalm 143:8-10 “Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. Rescue me from my enemies, O LORD, for I hide myself in you. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good spirit lead me on level ground.”

Old Business

Evangelism continues with neighborhood canvassing. Anyone interested in reaching our neighbors with the invitation to Sunny Place Church, please contact Pastor Pete.

New Business

The Elder Nominations are open the month of November. Please be in prayer about the leadership of Sunny Place Church.

The Ministry Team Annual Reports are due Dec. 1st.

Worship Ministry Holiday Plans There will be a Harvest Table and Harvest Dinner on Sunday Nov. 19. Bobbie King is planning the Harvest Table, Bobbie and Donna are coordinating the Dinner. Sunday Dec. 10 there will be a Family Christmas Worship. This will be a morning filled with singing Christmas songs, readings, as skit called “the elephant and the mouse.” All people who attend Sunny Place are encouraged to participate in their own way, glorifying our Savior Jesus Christ as we celebrate His birth. Wanda Sowell is coordinating this Family Christmas Worship. Please let her know how you wish to participate. There will be a Christmas Dinner in the Parsonage after Worship Service. People are asked to bring a dish to share, one meat pan will be provided.

Missions, Outreach and Evangelism Ministry Missions The Mission Fest is being planned for April 27-28, 2024. Phyllis is checking with the Church of God Global Strategy for missionaries who might be on Home Assignment at that time. The Outreach Senior Luncheon on the second Saturday of each month is attended by 30 to 40 people. The Outreach Ministry is spreading the Gospel during the luncheon. New people are attending. The Evangelism Ministry is still pursuing the “Laundry Love” project which will probably begin in the Spring 2024.

Prayer Ministry The Ministry team will continue the Sunday “Prayer Together...Time with Jesus” on the third Sunday of the month after Worship Service. A new time to pray together next year will be “Breakfast Prayer.” A group of people will meet at the McDonalds on Lake St. in Addison to pray together and interest others at the restaurant. There will be information and a warm welcome invitation to attend Sunny Place Church.

Stewardship Ministry There was a workday Sept 28. It was well attended and the project work list was completed. Tim Kasza thanked everyone for their help to care for the wellbeing of Sunny Place Church.

The next elders meeting will be Dec. 6, 2023