This Thing That Happened!

Tony Mauck · Luke 2:8–20

INTRODUCTION

- Many think that God wants us to celebrate the birth of Jesus on a specific date of the year. The New Testament simply does not address the matter.
- Let us go straight to Bethlehem then and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known unto us.
- While the birth of Jesus was a harbinger of long awaited hope, the cross and resurrection will be the centerpiece of his work.

1 The Extraordinary Jesus

John 14:6; John 10:14; Psalm 77:12–13

- He styled himself the way, the truth, and the life. There's no other means or avenue to glory beyond him.
- He is the Lamb, slaughtered for our well-being, he is the good shepherd, leading the soul easily wayward into the fold of safety.
- He is without question today, the conquering king. Everything that's fashioned against his people will not stand.
- He is appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he hath ordained.
- May we muse and meditate on the extraordinary person who not only entered the world in extraordinary fashion, but lived an extraordinary life, who died an extraordinary death.

2 Things That Still Happen

Philippians 2:12–13; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 3:9

- This is further about things that still happen. That God is at work even now, not so visibly, not so miraculously as we read about in the biblical narrative.
- Paul encourages the church at Philippi to work out their salvation with fear and trembling.
- For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
- God is still involved in arranging circumstances for the accomplishment of his purposes.
- He's not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
- God is not done trying to reach people with the message that they need while there's time and opportunity.

3 This Thing That Will Happen

2 Timothy 1:10

- I cannot emphasize enough how rapid we are moving toward this eventuality.

- You can’t read the New Testament and not conclude that there’s going to be a final day of reckoning.
- The message of the gospel is about life, and it’s about immortality. It is about preparation for the final day of reckoning.
- Focus, if you will, not just on the things that happened, but the things that still happen. And the thing that will happen.

THE CHALLENGE

May you embrace his story, employ yourself in his service, to be prepared for this thing that will happen.

MY NOTES