

Abiding in the Great Presentation

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Intro:

David's prayer of repentance reveals amazing insight into our **minds and our hearts**

- **Psalm 51:6-7** “Behold, you delight in truth in the **inward being**, and you teach me wisdom in the **secret heart**.
7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- **It's a Short Distance** from the **Mind to the Heart**, but the difference can be like heaven versus hell.
- David realized that his thoughts about God were far removed from his conduct before God (i.e. lying, murder and adultery over Bathsheba).
- It's easy for us to have great thoughts about God in our minds, but **deep in our hearts atheism** prowls like a leopard hiding in a cave. You don't know it's there.

God, who looks upon the inner heart, will bring circumstances that will lure the leopard out of hiding

- **The hidden leopard of atheism** pounces upon delightful temptations, saying, “Surely God is blind, will understand and give me a pass.”
- **The hidden leopard of atheism** pounces upon hard trials, saying, “If there is a God he is unfair.”
- **The hidden leopard of atheism** pounces on every truth that enters your mind to devour it in an effort to defend its desire to live in your inner being.
- We are only clean when our thoughts are trained on God and our **inward being—our secret heart**—are in full alignment.
- **God seeks for those** who believe him from the top of their thoughts to the deepest recesses of the inner, hidden heart.

Today, we will look at awesome truth. Beware that the hidden leopard of atheism does not devour it, but that you cast the leopard out and allow the truth to reign. Otherwise, you will not abide in the truth of the **Great Presentation**.

A. God Presented Christ to Us

➤ Christ in the manger was God revealed in physical form.

○ God's nature was in Jesus Christ

- Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Meekness, Kindness, Faithfulness, Self-Control.

○ The attributes of divine wisdom and knowledge were in the child

○ Eternal life was in the child—He had been eternally with his Father and would return eternity with his Father.

○ The strength to rule through humility and self-sacrifice was in him.

Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us).

24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife,

25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus. **ESV**

➤ Christ in the manger was the great culmination of God's progressive revelation

○ Creation shows God's creative power.

Psalm 19:1-6

1 The Heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

- 2 Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.
 3 There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.
 4 Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun,
 5 which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.
 6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat. **ESV**

➤ **In Jesus, God was presenting himself to us**

- **God revealed** the **consequences of sin**—He dismissed Adam and Eve from the Garden.
- **God showed his everlasting love**—forgiving Israel over and over.
- **God showed his power to deliver** from the impossible—be it David’s victory over Goliath, the destruction of the Egyptian slavery, the downfall of Nebuchadnezzar.
- **God showed his desire to take away our sin**—by the **sacrifice** of millions of animals.
- **God showed his desire for a holy relationship** by hearing and responding to you in my holy temple.
- **God showed his plans** through the **prophets**.
 - **Now, I am revealing myself in physical form so that you can understand and know me on common terms**

➤ **The Babe in the manger is the exact representation of the Father in heaven.**

- When you are in heaven, God will be no different than the Jesus you learned about in the Bible—no different than the Jesus people saw for thirty-three years. He was the **exact image** of the invisible God.

B. Christ Presents Us to God

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

23 But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

24 **Then comes the end**, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.

25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

27 For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him.

28 When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that **God may be all in all**. **ESV**

➤ **Christ will present his conquered kingdom to his Father**

○ **Here, Father is my bride**

▪ **Adorned without spot or wrinkle**

Ephesians 5:25-27

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. **ESV**

▪ **Bound in oneness** by perfect love

Ephesians 2:11-22

11 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—

12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility

15 by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, **ESV**

- **Made Holy and Blameless**

Colossians 1:21-23 :And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you **holy and blameless** and above reproach before him, 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. **ESV**

- **Clothed in Righteousness**

Revelation 19:6-9 “ Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.

7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;

8 it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

9 And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God." **ESV**

Call to Action

To what level do you believe in the coming of God's Son through the virgin Mary?

David spoke of two levels

- **The Level of the mind (Thoughts)**
- **The Level of the “Inward being,” “the Secret Heart.”**
- **Psalm 51:6-7** “Behold, you delight in truth in the **inward being**, and you teach me wisdom in the **secret heart**.
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