

December 22, 2008

TURN A CORNER!

Who is this baby – meek and mild?
Who is this humble Christmas child?

Humbling becomes us sinners. When God's Spirit is deeply at work in us, we humble ourselves (hard as it is to swallow our pride) and pray and seek His face and turn from our wicked ways – and God hears, forgives, and heals (2 Chronicles 7:14).

But why should Almighty God humble Himself? Here is the mystery of Christmas.

*“Out of the ivory palaces
Into a world of woe;
Only His great, eternal love
Made my Savior go.”*

Christ had always, eternally, been alive and active. *“In the beginning was the Word,”* says John 1:1 – and that reaches back before Genesis 1:1, before creation! Writes Frederick Bruehner,

*“Just as His death was not the end of Him,
So His birth was not the beginning of Him.”*

He was Almighty God.

And yet He came into this world that first Christmas and *“emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men”* (Philippians 2:7). Incredible! He created everything – and then He voluntarily submitted to His own creation.

Truly, profoundly, Christ Jesus humbled Himself.

O Christmas Child –
The Son of God, the Savior,
O tiny Babe –
Creation's Joy and Crown,
O Holy One –
The LORD of all forever:

We come before Your mercy seat,
Where wise men of the ages meet.
We lay our treasures at Your feet
And
bow
down.