**Scripture Reading:** Exodus 20:1-17 & Luke 2:1-20

**Singing:** 250:1-2 – 363:2, 5 – 424:1-3 – 15:1-3 – 407:1-4

**The wonder of Christ’s Birth**

I. The Comfort in God’s Timing II. The Comfort in God’s Coming

III. The Comfort in God’s Loving

**I. The comfort in God’s timing**

A. What were the times around Jesus’ birthday?

1. Foreign occupation and domination

2. Spiritual ignorance and deadness

3. Small remnant of godly seed

4. Take away: *Never despair no matter how dark and difficult*

B. While *all things continued* great things were in preparation (vs. 1)

1. God’s timing moving Augustus was perfect timing

a. this ‘timing’ began long before ‘time’

2. God’s timing was perfect in time for Mary and Joseph (3-4)

a. their riddle became bigger as time marched forward

b. neither understood how God would fulfill His promise

c. all fell into place through God’s timing of the taxation

3. Take away: *with God nothing is impossible!*

II. The Wonder of His birth speaks of the *comfort of His Coming*

A. Every detail about Jesus coming is *amazing and* *comforting*

1. Take note *Who was born* in Bethlehem

a. while Mary’s firstborn son, He was *God’s only begotten Son*

b. while Mary’s little baby boy, He was (is) *the Almighty Creator*

c. while Mary’s needy boy, He is the Savior of the needy

c. take away: *see how willing He was to stoop to come here!*

2. Take note *where Christ was born*

a. He chose little Bethlehem

b. take away: *never think yourself too low – unimportant*

3. Take note *how Christ was born*

a. He left the surroundings of glory to accept surroundings of poverty

b. take away: *He is not ashamed to call the ‘common’ brethren*

4. Take note *why Christ was born in these circumstances?*

a. What moved God and His Son to *go on such a mission?*

b. Why needed He to be *in such humbling circumstances?*

c. take away: *nothing but sacrifice of the Best can save the worst*

III. Wonder of Christ’s birth *speaks of the wonder of God’s love*

A. Luke 2 is the first glimpse of *God* ***so*** *loved the world.*

1. This love to send His Son on this mission existed from all eternity

2. In Bethlehem’s manger, He took the first step towards His death

a. the question ‘why’ is best answered with *‘for His glory’*

b. as Mary wrapped up her first born son, God unwrapping His love

c. nothing defines godliness better than this *Child of Bethlehem*

*And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:*

*God was manifest in the flesh … (1 Tim. 3:16)*

Closing Take Away

A. You ought to come and and see *… None is more adorable than God!*

1. Let not the angels be the only ones to sing

2. You and I ought to *sing with or sing beyond the angels?*

a. He came not for angels but He came for us unworthy sinners

b. He didn’t come to visit this earth because we asked or invited Him

c. He didn’t come to receive gifts from sinners but to Be the Gift of

God to sinners