

The Scandinavian Evangelical Conference of the International
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"THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST"

Address on Wednesday, August 3rd, by Dr. Allan A. MacIne, Phila-
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It is indeed a pleasure to take part in this conference and to have fellowship with the Christian people of Scandinavia. May God enable us together to witness to our wonderful Saviour.

I have been asked to speak on the subject of the Virgin Birth of Christ. Previous speakers had discussed such topics as the Bible - the Word of God, the Gospel of the Bible, and the Deity of Christ. Someone may ask, Why should we now take time for such an unimportant subject as the question of the Virgin Birth of Christ. He is our Saviour and what else matters?

Before I am through today, I hope that you will all be ready to agree with me that the subject is really a very important one. I do not say that one must believe in the Virgin Birth before one can be saved. But I do say that belief in it is vital for correct understanding of the Christian message, and for a leadership that is pleasing to God.

A simple illustration will show what I mean. If one desires to cross the ocean on a steamship, it is not necessary for him to know anything about the drive-shaft that carries the power from the engine to the propeller. He can purchase his ticket and go aboard, leaving these matters in the hands of the company. But if the drive-shaft were not there, the steamship would make no progress. The engine might be full of power. The propeller might be well-built and perfectly adapted to the purpose of propelling the ship forward. But without some means of applying the power of the engine to the propeller, the ship would never move. The Virgin Birth is similar in nature.

Thus I do not say that the presentation of the Virgin Birth is the proper approach toward winning a sinner to Christ, but I do say that it is extremely important for the Christian to believe in the Virgin Birth. Let us examine the reasons why it is important.

In the first place, it is important because to deny it is to impugn the veracity of the Word of God. There are points of theology on which honest men may differ as to what is the Biblical teaching. There are questions of fact on which careful Bible students have differing opinions. But this is not such a question. There is no reasonable doubt as to what the Word of God teaches about this matter. The question before us is simply this, are we willing to accept the testimony of God's Holy Word?

We open our New Testament and its very first chapter gives us a detailed account of the Virgin Birth of Christ. Its language is absolutely clear. Phrase after phrase indicates that Jesus had no human father, but was conceived of the Holy Ghost. Our doctrine is not based upon an obscure phrase. The teaching is repeatedly expressed in this very explicit chapter.

Nor does our doctrine rest only on one chapter of the Bible. The first two chapters of Luke describe the same event with equal clearness, beginning in Luke 1:34/35 with the angel's announcement to Mary that the Holy Spirit would cause her to conceive without the agency of any man. Thus we have two distinct witnesses testifying to this stupendous fact.