The Sentiments of the Christian in pondering the birth of Christ

(Die Empfindungen des Christen beim Nachdenken über die Geburt Christi)

A sermon (outline) by Friedrich Schleiermacher, delivered on 25th December 1794.
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Luke 2: 14
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Introduction: The news is also professed by us in just such a way, that the renewed and solemn remembrance of it positively has to bring forth all sorts of sentiments.

Theme: The sentiments of the Christian in pondering the birth of Christ.

I. Sentiments towards God: Glory be to God in the Highest
1. Concerning the ultimate purpose – the universal Saviour;
   a) an intensive universality,
      α) the redemption of all evil.
         1. concerning the moral [sentiment?]
         2. concerning the too-strong sentiment of the physical;
      β) the foundation to all the Good;
   b) an extensive universality,
      α) concerning the time
      β) concerning the place and the circumstances

2. Concerning the remedy – the wise Saviour;
   a) a natural salvation, coming from human nature
   b) a miraculous salvation, coming from an inauspicious start.

II. Regulative Sentiments
1. Peace on Earth
   a) Peace with heaven,
      α) reconciliation,
      β) unanimity in his purposes;
   b) Peace between Christians as Christians,
      α) toleration of differences,
      β) grounding in the improvement of essentials;
   c) Peace between Christians as citizens of the earth,

2. Goodwill between all men;
   a) Goodwill concerning his revelation – through exacting reflection on the great wisdom, which lies therein,
   b) Goodwill concerning his doctrine – (not only cold approval), through exacting knowledge of their composition and their blessed operations,
c) Goodwill concerning his archetype – (not distant admiration), through the endeavour to imitate him.

**Close:** The endeavour of imitation must always be the capstone of all Christian sentiments.