

The Focus on the Babe

In his portrayal of the nativity scene, Rembrandt – a Dutch artist, generally considered one of the greatest painters and printmakers in European art history – focused attention entirely on the Babe in the manger.

He did this by painting a shaft of light so that it falls exclusively on the Christ-child. Although he included other figures, they are shrouded in the shadows.

Rembrandt wanted nothing to detract from the significance of that Baby, who was God in the flesh. He wanted Christ to be the sole object of adoration.



The gospel of Luke gives us a similar picture of Jesus' birth. He is the focus of everyone's attention:

- The shepherds looked upon the baby Jesus and returned "glorifying and praising God" (Luke 2:20).
- The devout Simeon, taking the infant into his arms, referred to Him as a "light to bring revelation to the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32).
- The prophetess Anna "spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem" (Luke 2:38).
- The wise men said, "We have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him" (Matthew 2:2).

In the midst of all the shopping, the tinsel, and the family get-togethers, let's be certain this Christmas season that we focus our attention on Christ as we worship Him.

God's highest Gift should awaken our deepest gratitude.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen (Luke 2:20).

– Beecher Hunter