

# He Came to Save His People

It's the start of Advent Season. Advent means "coming." During Advent we celebrate Christ's coming into the world. Advent happens on the four Sunday's before Christmas. On each Sunday we do a reading on various aspects of Christ's coming. The first week the reading focuses on Hope. The second week it focuses on Peace. The third week it focuses on Joy. The fourth week it focuses on love. Certainly Christ's coming is about hope, peace, joy, and love.

Today's message focuses on an important aspect of Christ's coming, the "why" of His coming. Listen to Matthew 1:18-21 which is the first gospel record of the things that surrounded Jesus' birth. As I read, see, if you can pick out one of the main reasons Jesus came.

## **Matthew 1:18-21 (NASB)**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. <sup>20</sup> But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name **Jesus**, for He will save His people from their sins."

It is pretty clear. The angel announced that Jesus came to save His people from their sins. At that time in history as in our time, there were people, there was sin, and there was the need for salvation.

As we explore the topic of why Jesus came, we'll look at:

**The truth about sin**  
**Man's plan to save himself**  
**God's plan to save people**

## **The truth about sin**

**The problem with sin – it separates people from God – Is 59:2**

Isaiah 59:2 - But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden *His* face from you so that He does not hear.

Simply put, sin separates people from God. God is a holy God and cannot have sin around Him.

**The pervasiveness of sin – all of us are sinners - Rm 3:23**

Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

The Bible says that all of us are sinners. We are not sinners because we sin, we sin because we are sinners. We have a sin nature that has been passed on to us from our parents, who had a sin nature passed on from their parents and so on, all the way back to Adam and Eve who were the first humans to sin.

**The penalty of sin – physical and spiritual death - Rm 6:23**

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Physical death can be defined as the spirit's separation from the body when the body finally dies. Spiritual death may be defined as the spirit's separation from God. A person can be physically alive and at the same time spiritually dead.

## **The promise of judgment – it happens after we die**

Hebrews 9:27 - And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment.

The Bible clearly teaches that all of us have an appointed time to die. God knows that time. The Old Testament states that God knew all the days of our lives before there was yet one of them. If a person dies without having his sin forgiven, he will become eternally separated from God.

## **Man's plan to save himself**

I have asked many people the question, "If you were to die tonight and stand before God and He said, 'Why should I let you into My heaven,' what would you say? The greatest majority of the time I get the response of goods works.

**Good works** - doing good deeds that somehow outweigh bad deeds.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; <sup>9</sup>not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**Religion** – being a religious person. Going to church, reading the Bible and praying. These are simply religious works, and we have already seen in Ephesians 2:8,9 that good works won't save us.

**Philosophy** - adopting a certain philosophy of life like "God is loving therefore everyone is going to heaven."

Proverbs 14:12 - There is a way *which seems* right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

Colossians 2:8 - See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men,

according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

***Morality*** – living a moral life

James 2:10 - For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all.

People who try to get to heaven through morality might adopt the motto, “I don’t smoke, I don’t drink, and I don’t chew, or run with the people who do.”

## **God’s plan to save people**

**The proof of God’s love**

Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

The word for demonstrates might also be translated, “proved.” God actually proved His love for us, by sending His Son to die for us.

**The exclusive provision of Christ’s sacrifice**

1 Peter 3:18 - For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

John 14:6 - Jesus said\* to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

If there was any other way of saving us, God would have chosen it. He didn’t, because Jesus is the only way.

## **The place of faith and receiving**

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

John 1:12 - But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name,

Romans 10:9 - that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

## **The promise and assurance of eternal life**

**1 John 5:11-13** - <sup>11</sup> And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. <sup>12</sup> He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. <sup>13</sup> These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

God has given eternal life. This life is in Christ. Simply put, He who has God's Son, has eternal life. Those who don't have God's Son, do not have eternal life. John wrote these things to those who believe in the name of the Son of God in order that they might know that they have eternal life.

If you have Christ, you have eternal life. In other words, if you have placed your faith in Christ and have made Him your Lord and Savior, you have eternal life. If you have not done that, no matter what else you have done, you do not have eternal life.

You might say this is pretty cut and dry. If you think this, you are right. The fact is, if there was any other way of saving people (good works, religion, philosophy, morality, etc.) God would have used that way. But

there isn't another way. Jesus is the only way. If you reject Christ you will not go to heaven. That is not my plan, that is God's plan. In His infinite wisdom, that is the plan He worked out. If you choose to reject the plan, you are rejecting God's plan and the only plan that can save you.

If you have accepted God's provision for your salvation, then this Christmas time is a joyous time indeed.

### **Summary –**

The problem with sin

- It separates people from God
- All of us have sinned
- The wage of sin is death
- All of us will die and be judged

Man's plan to save himself

- Good works
- Religion
- Philosophy
- Morality

God plan to save people

- The proof of God's love – God proved His love by sending Christ
- The exclusive provision of Christ's sacrifice – Jn 14:6
- The place of faith and receiving – Believing and receiving
- The promise and assurance of eternal life – He who has the Son

### **Final Question –**

Have you joined the ranks of the saved? In other words, have you received Jesus as Lord and Savior?