

The PCTH, December 28-January 3, 2021

Theme: Christmas 2020 has come to a close and we are on the verge of a brand new year. What will this year hold and how should we live in 2021? These are questions certainly worth asking and worth praying about. This week as we think about those questions we will look at the reasons that Jesus came into this world and as we do that, His word can certainly show us how we are to live each and everyday.

Monday - Mark 10

Mark makes the declaration in Mark 10:45, that “the Son of man came not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.” Jesus came into this world to serve us by ransoming us. The question is why do we need to be ransomed? One commentator puts it this way, “we sold ourselves into sin and because of that we have been alienated from a holy God. When Jesus gave His life as a ransom, He set us free. He delivered us from our slavemasters: our sin, death, and the devil.” Now because of Jesus those things have no claim on us. We no longer have to give into sin. It has no claim over us. We will all die but we will be raised to eternal life. Death therefore is defeated, it has no claim over us. The devil has been defeated as well and he has no claim on us. We are ransomed by the blood of Jesus. Paul says Jesus ransomed us and redeemed us so that “we might receive adoption as sons.” We sold ourselves into sin but Jesus ransomed us and set us free and then He took us into His own family. Because the son of man gave His life as a ransom we can now be part of the family of God.

Tuesday - Luke 5

Jesus says in Luke 5:31-32, “Jesus said to them, ‘ those who are well have no need of a physician but those who are sick; I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.’” Once again we are told a reason for Jesus’ coming. This time it is in His own word, “I have come to call sinners to repentance.”

We could not ransom ourselves so Jesus ransomed us, He redeemed us. For us to experience that redemption however we must repent and turn from our sins. We turn from them to the true and living God. Jesus knows this and so He calls us to repent. We will not repent on our own. The truth is we are happy in our sins, but Jesus knows what sin does to us and so He calls us to repent. HE calls us to turn from our sins so that we can be forgiven and be ransomed. He calls us to repent so that we might be redeemed and set free. He calls us to repent of our sins and embrace His forgiveness. We do this for salvation but it is something that we should continue doing each and everyday, not because we have to be saved everyday, but because we want to turn our own hearts to Jesus everyday. We repent once for salvation and we repent daily to turn our hearts toward Jesus so that we might live for His glory, so that we might follow Him and stay away from sin and its destructiveness.

Wednesday - John 12

Jesus once again tells us why He has come into this world, "I have come as light into the world." In other words He has come to shine the light of God into our lives. This light shows us the way of salvation (which is only through Jesus) and this light shows us how to live each and every day. He shines His light so that we might be saved, but once we are saved He does not leave us alone. He continues to shine into our lives to show us how to live. He gives us His wisdom if we just ask Him and He shows us how to live and how to stay away from sin. His light shows us how we can truly love God and love others. His light shows us the way to experience the fullness of life (John 10:10). Thank God for Jesus, the light of the world!

Thursday - John 3

No discussion of why Jesus came would be complete without looking at John 3. Verse 16 tells us that Jesus came to reveal the love of God to us so that we might have eternal life. However we don't need to stop reading at v. 16. Verses 17-18 are extremely powerful as well, "for God sent not the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." Jesus came to save us from divine condemnation. In fact the Bible tells us that He does more than just save us from divine condemnation, He takes the condemnation for us. The reality is that sin always has to be punished. God is holy and just and He will not and cannot look past sin. However Jesus in His grace takes our sin on the cross and takes the punishment for us. What an amazing God we serve!

Friday - John 3

Read it again. Read every verse again but marinate on verse 16. Jesus came into this world as a gift from God the Father and this gift is so amazing that through Him we have another gift, the gift of eternal life. Because of this gift we can live with hope. Life does not end. Death is defeated, Jesus is alive. We live with hope because of this gift. Hope that people that have "gone on before us" will be seen again, and hope that death does not have the last word. We have the gift of eternal life! Thanks be to God.