"WHY JESUS CAME TO EARTH"

I Timothy 1:15-17
12-17-2023

INTRODUCTION:

***Four Questions need to be asked at Christmas time!**

I. <u>WHY</u> did Christ <u>COME</u> into the world?
--<u>*TO SAVE*</u> (v. 15)

II. <u>WHO</u> did Christ come to <u>SAVE</u>?
--<u>*SINNERS*</u> (v. 15)

III. <u>WHAT</u> type of <u>SINNERS</u> can Christ save?
--<u>*THE CHIEFEST*</u> (v. 15-16)

IV. <u>WHAT</u> will be the <u>RESULT</u> of Christ's salvation?
--<u>*ETERNAL HONOR AND GLORY*</u> (v. 17)

CONCLUSION:

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INTRODUCTION:

The World in general is quite familiar with some of the details involving Christ's birth.

Many know of the angels announcement to the shepherds…

Many know of the humble stable and manger…

Many know of the wise men who came to worship him…etc.

Did you know…

The Bible tells us <u>WHERE</u> the Messiah would be born:

Micah 5:2

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

The Bible tells us <u>WHEN</u> the Messiah would be born:

Da 9:25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

The Bible tells us <u>HOW</u> the Messiah would be born:

Isa 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Mt 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

The Bible tells us <u>THE NAMES AND TITLES</u> of the Messiah who would be born:

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

The Bible tells us <u>WHAT</u> the Messiah would be like and <u>HOW</u> He would be viewed and treated when He came into the world:

Isaiah 53:1-3

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? [2] For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. [3] He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

However, the ultimate question is WHY? Why did the Messiah come?

1 Tim. 1:15

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Why did Jesus come to earth?

--Some say: to set an example
--Others: To teach great truths.
--Others: to revolutionize society

Have you ever heard the Gospel according to Jesus Christ? That is, His own account as to why He came to earth?

The Lord's own story is in the O.T., in Psalm 40, and quoted in Hebrews 10:5-7 & 9 - *"Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt-offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. . . Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second."*

V. 15

"This is a faithful saying" - Here is a trustworthy statement (lit. "word"). Here is a believable sentence. This is a declaration that is worthy of your full faith; your total confidence.

In contrast to the works of men, the historical writings of men - which many times are filled with error, interjected with flawed points of view, skeptical assertions to be read with a "grain of salt" ---- This statement in I Timothy 1:15 is inerrant and infallible (like the rest of Scripture).

The reason why the importance of this "saying" is emphasized is because the truth that is unfolded here is the theme of the entire Bible; it is the most important truth to ever fall upon the ears of mankind.

"Acceptation" **=** to accept into one's life; to gladly receive (Acts 2:41); or whole-heartedly welcome (cp. Rom. 16:2).

"Worthy of all acceptation" - a statement that deserves the attention and acceptance of everyone. The saying about to be made deserves that everyone, regardless of age, color, race, culture, class, and social status whole-heartedly welcome, receive or take it and make it their most treasured promise. Everyone should embrace this truth.

If Christmas is a time of giving and accepting - God has given to the world a truth. It is therefore up to the world to accept it.

The reason why this saying is worthy to be accepted by All, is because this saying is promised to All (no limited atonement).

*SEE: I Tim. 4:9-10

"Christ Jesus" - Christ = Anointed One; Messiah
Jesus = Jehovah is salvation; Savior (Mt.1:21)

"Came into the world" -

This phrase:

--points to Christ's pre-existence
(He existed before the world even existed. He created the universe.)

Jn. 6:51 - *". . . came down from Heaven"*

Col. 1:16-17a - *"For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him . . . And He is before all things."*

Heb. 1:2 - *"Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds."*

--points to Christ's humility
(That the Creator would stoop so low as to personally and visibly step into His creation.)

Phil. 2:6

John 1:10 - *"He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not."*

II Cor. 8:9 - *"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich."*

"Into the world" - Christ being the omnipresent God was in the world in His spiritual essence in the Old Testament, but did not come *"into the world"* in a physical sense until His incarnation! At that point, *"as the second Adam"* He entered the human race.

***Four Questions need to be asked at Christmas time!**

I. WHY did Christ COME into the world?
--*TO SAVE* (v. 15)

Jesus did not come into the world to:
1. Be served (Mk. 10:45), but to save
2. Reign as king (He will at His second coming), but to save
3. Condemn the world (Jn. 3:17), but to save
4. Destroy men's lives (Lk. 9:56) but to save

"To save" - to rescue; deliver

"To save" - Save from what?

--From lostness (spiritual blindness and bondage)
(Luke 19:10 - *"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."*

--From a ruined life
(Jn. 10:10 - *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."*

--From eternal death
(II Cor. 1:10 - *"Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that He will yet deliver us."* Cp. Heb. 7:25)

SEE: Matthew 20:28 - *"A ransom for many" -*

"Ransom" = a required price
"For" - anti = means "in the place of" "in the stead of" as a substitute for

There is no question "why?" as to the purpose of Christ's coming:

> *"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."* (I Jn. 4:9-10)

The believer's testimony is this: *"I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see."* ("Amazing Grace")

II. WHO did Christ come to SAVE?
--*SINNERS* (v. 15)

"Sinners" - those who have missed God's mark or God's perfect standard of holiness.

Since all are sinners (Rom. 3:10, 23), all qualify for salvation.

Mark 2:17 - *"When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of a physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."*

III. WHAT type of SINNERS can Christ save?
--*THE CHIEFEST* (v. 15-16)

"Of whom I am chief" -

Of the sinners, I rank # 1, Paul says.

I was the premiere sinner, the height of sinners. Paul serves as an example of God's power and grace to save even the lowest of sinners (v. 16).

Although all people are totally depraved (*"dead in trespasses and sins"*), Paul's depravity was manifested against believers more than anyone else in his day. He went the extra mile to persecute, imprison, and torment God's people (Acts 9:1-4; 22:4 - *"And I persecuted this way unto death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women."*)

"Of whom I am chief" - Not "was chief"; but even at the end of his life Paul recognized his unworthiness to be saved.

Paul's words are not pious rhetoric. He was keenly aware of his own wretchedness (Rom. 7:24).

"The fact is that it is always the characteristic of a true saint to feel himself a real sinner. The air in a room seems to be clear, but when it is penetrated by the sunlight, it is seen to be full of dust and other impurities; and so as men draw nearer to God, and are penetrated by the light of God (I Jn. 1:5), they see more clearly their own infirmities, and begin to feel for sin something of the hatred which God feels for it." (Brown, cited by Hiebert, p. 43).

"For this cause" - because Christ came into the world to save sinners--even the chiefest--Christ saved Paul for the explicit purpose of displaying His merciful patience and grace.

God either saved you or wants to save you so you too might be an example of His longsuffering.

"In me <u>first</u>" - *first* = the same word as *chief* (v. 15). Paul as the ranking # 1 sinner serves as a "pattern" (or example) of God's mercy and grace to save even the chiefest of sinners.

The goal of Christ's saving sinners is ***"unto eternal life."***

IV. <u>WHAT</u> will be the <u>RESULT</u> of Christ's salvation?
--*<u>ETERNAL HONOR AND GLORY</u>* (v. 17)

Paul's gratefulness for Christ's salvation turns into worship and praise.

"The King" - is Jesus Christ, who is *"king of kings and lord of lords"* (Rev. 19:16). The antecedent to the word *"king"* in this context is Christ.

The King of Heaven is:

1. ***"Eternal"*** - He is the great *"I AM"* (Jn. 8:24, 58; 18:6), the *"Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end"* (Rev. 1:8; 21:6).

2. ***"Immortal" -*** incorruptible, imperishable, unchanging

3. ***"Invisible" -*** Christ being in Heaven cannot be seen with mortal eyes

4. ***"Wise God" -*** Christ is the wisdom of God (I Cor. 1:24)

Unto Him be eternal ***"honor" -*** to treat with value, precious dignity (Rev. 5:12)

Unto Him be eternal ***"glory" -*** credit, praise

CONCLUSION:

THE ART COLLECTOR'S SON

Author Unknown

Years ago, there was a very wealthy man who, with his devoted young son, shared a passion for art collecting. Together they traveled around the world, adding only the finest art treasures to their collection. Priceless works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Monet and many others adorned the walls of the family estate. The widowed, elder man looked on with satisfaction as his only child became an experienced art collector. The son's trained eye and sharp business mind caused his father to beam with pride as they dealt with art collectors around the world.

As winter approached, war engulfed the nation, and the young man left to serve his country. After only a few short weeks, his father received a telegram. His beloved son was missing in action. The art collector anxiously awaited more news, fearing he would never see his son again. Within days, his fears were confirmed. The young man had died while rushing a fellow soldier to a medic.

Distraught and lonely, the old man faced the upcoming Christmas holidays with anguish and sadness. The joy of the season, a season that he and his son had so looked forward to, would visit his house no longer. On Christmas morning, a knock on the door awakened the depressed old man. As he walked to the door, the masterpieces of art on the walls only reminded him that his son was not coming home.

As he opened the door, he was greeted by a soldier with a large package in his hand. He introduced himself to the man by saying, "I was a friend of your son. I was the one he was rescuing when he died. May I come in for a few moments? I have something to show you." As the two began to talk, the soldier told of how the man's son had told everyone of his, not to mention his father's, love of fine art. "I'm an artist," said the soldier, "and I want to give you this." As the old man unwrapped the package, the paper gave way to reveal a portrait of the son.

Though the world would never consider it the work of a genius, the painting featured the young man's face in striking detail. Overcome with emotion, the man thanked the soldier, promising to hang the picture over the fireplace. A few hours later, after the soldier had departed, the old man set about his task.

True to his word, the painting went well above the fireplace, pushing aside thousands of dollars of paintings. And then the man sat in his chair and spent Christmas gazing at the gift he had been given. During the days and weeks that followed, the man realized that even though his son was no longer with him, the boy's life would live on because of those he had touched. He would soon learn that his son had rescued dozens of wounded soldiers before a bullet stilled his caring heart.

As the stories of his son's gallantry continued to reach him, fatherly pride and satisfaction began to ease the grief. The painting of his son soon became his most prized possession, far eclipsing any interest in the pieces for which museums around the world clamored. He told his neighbors it was the greatest gift he had ever received.

The following spring, the old man became ill and passed away. The art world was in anticipation!

Unmindful of the story of the man's only son, but in his honor, those paintings would be sold at an auction. According to the will of the old man, all of the art works would be auctioned on Christmas day, the day he had received his greatest gift. The day soon arrived and art collectors from around the world gathered to bid on some of the world's most spectacular paintings. Dreams would be fulfilled this day; greatness would be achieved as many claim "I have the greatest collection." The auction began with a painting that was not on any museum's list. It was the painting of the man's son. The auctioneer asked for an opening bid. The room was silent.

"Who will open the bidding with $100?" he asked. Minutes passed. No one spoke. From the back of the room came, "Who cares about that painting? It's just a picture of his son. Let's forget it and go on to the good stuff."

More voices echoed in agreement. “No, we have to sell this one first,” replied the auctioneer. “Now, who will take the son?” Finally, a friend of the old man spoke, “Will you take ten dollars for the painting? That’s all I have. I knew the boy, so I’d like to have it.”

“I have ten dollars. Will anyone go higher?” called the auctioneer. After more silence, the auctioneer said, “Going once, going twice. Gone.” The gavel fell, cheers filled the room and someone exclaimed, “Now we can get on with it and we can bid on these treasures!”

The auctioneer looked at the audience and announced the auction was over. Stunned disbelief quieted the room. Someone spoke up and asked, “What do you mean it’s over? We didn’t come here for a picture of some old guy’s son. What about all of these paintings? There are millions of dollars of art here! I demand that you explain what’s going on here!” The auctioneer replied, “It’s very simple. According to the will of the father, whoever takes the son…gets it all.”

Puts things into perspective doesn’t it? Just as those art collectors discovered on that Christmas Day, the message is still the same: the love of a Father, a Father whose greatest joy came from His Son, who went away and gave His life rescuing others. And because of that Father’s love, whoever takes the Son, gets it all.

– Unknown

1 John 5:12 says: “He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”