

Date: 14th June 2009

Readings: Luke 5:31,32; Luke 19:10; John 10:9-11; John 12:46; John 14:1-3

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Subject: Reasons for Christ Coming into the World.

1. To Call sinners to Repentance – Luke 5:31,32
2. To Seek and to Save the Lost - Luke 19:10
3. To Bring Life – John 10:9-11
4. As a Light in the World – John 12:46
5. To Open a Way to Heaven – John 14:1-3

Paul writes to Timothy saying, “This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief” (1 Tim 1:15). The fact that He came indicates that He existed before. Bethlehem was not the beginning but rather He is Eternal (Mic 5:2)

1. The Lord indicates here that the first requirement for salvation is that we recognise that we are sinners. He speaks of Pharisees as “the righteous”, not because they were good enough, but because they were not prepared to accept their guilt so they could not be saved. The Bible states clearly, “All have sinned” (Rom 3:23) and “There is none righteous” (Rom 3:10).

We all need to consider how we see ourselves. The message of the Lord was for sinners to repent or turn away from their sin. Paul tells the men of Athens that “God...now commandeth all men every where to repent” (Acts 17:30). He reminds the Ephesian elders that he always preached “repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21). We must recognise how serious sin is as far as God is concerned.

2. As well as calling, He came to seek. He had a desire to reach individuals who were lost because of sin.

We all need to recognise not only that we are sinners, but that our sins have separated us from God. We have lost the enjoyment of His presence and we can only be restored when we accept that He suffered for our sins so that we could live. Peter preached, “whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Acts 2:21), when he was sinking, he cried, “Lord, save me” (Matt 14:30). Paul also testified that “the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Gal 2:20).

3. God has to deal with our sins so that we can be in heaven. We need to be made right with God. When He does this, He gives us a new life, eternal life which brings us into a living relationship with Him: “**And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent**” (John 17:3)

It brings us into fellowship with the God of heaven, allowing us to get to know Him by daily trusting Him. It is a life that goes on into heaven.

Man was created to have a relationship with God but sin has broken the relationship. God wants to bring us back (Rom 6:23). Do you have this eternal life?

4. None of us like the dark, none of us like to think that there are things that we do not know, but when it comes to God, men want the dark because they do not want their sins to be exposed (John 8:12, John 3:19)

5. The Lord Jesus has gone, but He is coming again to receive all who have been saved to heaven. Do you have that assurance? Is this a promise that you have believed? (John 14:1)

