

WHY CHRIST CAME TO EARTH

"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."

-- I Timothy 1:15

In the life and thought of men great value and meaning attach to sayings. Many of these sayings are condensed and portable expressions of truth or of some aspect of truth. Inspiration has given us many of these. God's Book is gemmed with them. Many are found in the writings of the Apostle Paul. Of them all, this is one of the best known and most frequently quoted.

Our subject, "Why Christ Came to Earth," has engaged the thoughtful and earnest attention for years of theologians, historians, sociologists, philosophers and reformers. There is confusion in the minds of many regarding the purpose of Christ's coming to earth. Some think that He came to teach the "Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man." Some think that He came to set a beautiful example for mankind. Others think that He came to reorganize society along new lines. Still others think that He came to proclaim new ethical principles by which men were to mold their lives. But there is no need to speculate or guess or argue the matter. There need not be any uncertainty concerning the purpose of Christ's coming, for it has been stated plainly for us in our text. No one can mistake the meaning of these plain and explicit words. They unmistakably declare that it was His interest in sinners that induced Him to come to the earth.

1. This is a faithful saying.

This implies both that it is true, and that it contains a promise and a consolation. It agrees with sense and reason. Men have proved it in their experience over and over. My experience cannot be your certitude; but if you and I are suffering from precisely the same disease, and I have tested a cure, my experience should have some weight with you. This faithful saying is trustworthy. It never deceived anybody who really believed it.

2. This saying is worthy of acceptance.

It is worthy of attention. A saying like this should not fail to receive the attention of any human being, for it comes to meet a universal need, and it offers help where men are most helpless. It is appealing, comforting and hopeful. "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." This fact should inspire gratitude and increase love.

This great saying, which is both faithful and worthy of acceptance, is clearly stated. "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." That was His business; that was the motive of His self-sacrifice; that was the meaning of His crucifixion.

When Paul said, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners," he implied that He existed before He came. He existed somewhere before He came here. He left the glory which He had with the Father before the world was. He came voluntarily of His own free will. He came from the bosom of the Father where He had been from eternity, the same in substance, and equal in power and glory. In giving Him to us God gave of His own very substance, life, character and love.

I. Christ Came On A Divine Mission.

He stepped down from His throne of glory, laid infinite glory aside, and consented to enter this world through the lowly door of Bethlehem's manger. He came to reveal the

love of God, the grace of Christ and the need of men. The efficacy of His atoning sacrifice depends upon His person.

"There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin.
He only could unlock the door of Heaven and let us in."

No blood except the blood of Jesus could avail to take away our sin, and make it possible for God to pardon us and to receive us as righteous for Christ's sake.

II. Christ Came To A Needy Place.

"Christ Jesus came into the world." How simple, and yet how profound and how sublime is that statement! This world to which He came is populated with sinners. Anything man does in violation of God's law is sin. When we refuse to render God the love and devotion due Him, we sin. When an impure thought crosses our minds, we sin. When we take anything that does not belong to us, we sin. When we desire that which is not lawfully ours, we sin. All who live on this earth have broken God's holy law and sinned. Who could truthfully say that he has rendered to God all the love and obedience due Him? There are people who dare to say that they have no sin, but as God's Word puts it, they deceive themselves and the truth is not in them.

III. Christ Came For A Great Work.

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." The word "Sinner" is not a nice one, but the fact for which it stands is even worse than the word. Sin is the most foul, most hateful, most hideous and most loathsome thing in all the universe.

Sin brings suffering and misery. All of man's woe is due to sin. Sin is what mars our existence here upon earth. The more sinful men become, the more suffering there is in the world. It is useless to expect to remove human suffering by changing the social order, for sin will cause misery under any social order.

Sin also causes God to withhold blessings. God told His sinful people, "Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you." If we live in sin, God withholds His greatest blessings from us. Sin causes God to withhold blessings from nations as well as from individuals.

Sin also will bring God's condemnation. "The wages of sin is death" -- eternal death -- which is eternal separation from God in hell. There is nothing as terrible as that. Those who persist in sin and live without God on earth will be shut out from God through all eternity.

While Christ was here on the earth, His interest was in sinners, His tenderness was for sinners, and His kindness was to sinners. He did not come into the world to punish sinners. He did not come to upbraid sinners. He did not come to reform sinners. He did not come to help sinners to do better. He did not come to condemn sinners. He came to save them freely and fully.

1. Christ came to earth to save sinners from the penalty of their sins.

There is a holy God. When men sin, their sins separate them from Him. Christ came to save sinners from the guilt of their sins. He saved us from the guilt and penalty of sin by taking our guilt upon Himself, by bearing our penalty in His own body on the cross. By His atoning death Christ put away the sin between the sinner and God. By His death, God's wrath at your sin and at my sin was settled forever. Through His death our guilty consciences find peace.

2. Christ came to earth to save sinners from the power of sin.

"Everyone that committeth sin is the slave of sin." Many know from bitterest experience the bondage of sin. Christ came to save us from sin's power as well as from sin's guilt. "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be freed indeed." John 8:36.

3. Christ came to earth to save sinners from the presence of sin.

All men are truly sinners, but all men are not equally sinners. They are all in the mire, but they have not all sunk to an equal depth in it. All have fallen deep enough to perish in sin unless the grace of God prevent, yet there are differences in the degrees of guilt. Christ Jesus came to save from the penalty and power and presence of sin. He saves all who come to Him and put their trust in Him. He will not save any who refuse to come to Him, but He will save all, freely, fully and forever, who will come to Him, acknowledge their sins, and put their trust in Him as their Saviour from the penalty, the power, and the presence of sin. Won't you accept Him now and let Him save you? There is no other way of salvation possible. If you want to be saved, there is only one way to obtain salvation, and that is through a personal faith in Christ who died on the cross for you. Until you receive the salvation which He purchased and provided, you will remain lost. Flee from the wrath to come. Obtain deliverance from the guilt of sin, the power of sin, and eventually from the presence of sin through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who came into the world to save sinners. There is no salvation in any other. Put your trust in Him now and be saved.