

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" (1 Timothy 1:15).

Through the last twenty centuries, the subject, "Why Christ Came To Earth", has engaged the thoughtful and earnest attention of historians, theologians, philosophers and reformers. It is regrettable that even in our day 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." Others think that He came just to set a good example for mankind. Some think that Christ came to reorganize society along different lines. Still others think that He came to proclaim new ethical principles by which men are to mold their lives. But, there is no need for any uncertainty concerning the purpose of Christ's coming. As clear as language can express it, the Word of God says: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

I. Christ Came To A Needy Place.

Christ stepped down from His throne, laid aside His infinite glory, and entered this world through the lowly door of Bethlehem's manger. He came into a world where men are proud, conceited, selfish, envious and sinful. He came to a place where men cheat, lie, fight, murder, commit adultery and dishonor God. The world into which Christ came is now populated with sinners. When people desire that which is not lawfully theirs, they sin. When they take anything that does not belong to them, they sin. When they refuse to render to God the love and devotion which are due Him, they sin. Christ's coming into this needy world to supply the needs of men was the outworking of God's eternal purpose and the fulfillment of His will.

II. Christ Came On A Divine Mission.

1. To Bring Light.

What the sun is to the physical world, that Christ is to the spiritual world. He is the source of light. As the face of nature revives or withers according to the brightness and influence of the sun, so the soul of man remains dead or is quickened according to whether the Sun of Righteousness withholds or imparts the invigorating rays.

By His coming to earth Christ revealed the tender disposition of God toward men, and proved His great desire to rescue, to save, and to bless. Christ made known what God is like and what He requires of men. Christ also came to reveal man to himself as he is, namely, a sinner before God.

2. To Save Sinners.

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Christ did not come into the world to upbraid, condemn, reform or punish sinners, but, since sinners could not save themselves, He did come to save them freely and fully. After revealing to man his sinfulness, Christ made known unto him the way to pass from sin to salvation, or from death to life.

Christ came to save sinners from the penalty of their sins by bearing that penalty in His own body on the cross. Christ came to save sinners from the power of sin during their Christian lives here on this earth. Christ also came to save sinners from the presence of sin, and this will be accomplished when He takes them to heaven to be with Him.

Christ's coming to earth was the dawn of redeeming grace. It also meant the dawning of a new day in human history. Since He came the world has never been the same. Christ's coming was like the dayspring in its beauty. He did not come as men anticipated or expected that He would. They were looking for a conqueror, but He came as an infant. Since His birth childhood has taken on a new attractiveness and sacredness. When Christ came with the beauty and hopefulness of a little child, and taught all to see in His cradle the hope of a new and better day for the human race, His coming was like the dayspring in its power.

3. To Guide Us Into The Way Of Peace.

Christ came to guide the wandering and wayward feet of believers into the way of peace. It is His desire that we shall be at peace with God, with others, and with ourselves.

At this Christmas season, let us show our genuine appreciation to Christ Who came to earth to give us the light, to save us from our sins, and to guide us into the way of peace!