

# The Purpose of Christmas

Part # 2:

## A TIME FOR SALVATION

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The birth of Jesus Christ is the most significant event in the history of humankind. It split history into BC and AD. Every time we write a check, celebrate a birthday, fill out an application or use a date, we're using the birth of Jesus Christ as the basis for measuring time.

On the night Jesus was born, God sent an angel to announce His arrival. In that birth announcement, we find God's three **purposes** of Christmas:

**Luke 2:8-10** *That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep.<sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and they became very frightened.<sup>10</sup> The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news that will be a great joy to all the people.*

The first purpose of Christmas is to **celebrate**. The second purpose is found in the very next statement the angel made:

**Luke 2:11** *The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!*

The second purpose of Christmas is **salvation**.

### *Central Point...*

#### Three Dimensions of Salvation

Salvation is three-dimensional. We are saved **from** something, saved **for** something, and saved **by** something.

##### 1. Jesus came to save us from **sin**.

**Romans 3:23** *For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.*

The problem with sin is that it **separates** us from God.

**Isaiah 59:2** <sup>2</sup> *But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.*

Jesus came to set us free from sin. But there's something else we need to be set free from – we need to be set free from **ourselves**.

**Romans 7:24-25** *I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question?* <sup>25</sup> *The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does.*

The answer to our problem is not in a **place**, **program** or another relationship. The answer to our sin problem and dissatisfaction in life is **Jesus Christ**.

We need a **Savior**.

##### 2. Jesus came to save us for a **purpose**.

**2 Timothy 1:9** *[God] saved us and made us his holy people. That was not because of anything we did ourselves but because of God's purpose and grace.*

**Ephesians 1:11-12** <sup>11</sup> *God also decided ahead of time to choose us through Christ according to his plan, which makes everything work the way he intends.* <sup>12</sup> *He planned all of this so that we who had already focused our hope on Christ would praise him and give him glory.*

We can live life at one of three levels:

- the **survival** level.
- the **success** level.
- the **significance** level.

We were made for **significance**.

Significance comes from **knowing** God, knowing His **purpose** for our lives, and then **doing** it.

We were made by God and for God, and until we understand this, life is never going to make **sense**.

##### 3. Jesus came to save us by His **grace**.

**John 1:17** *"For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ."*

To fully understand grace, we must **accept** it as a **priceless** gift.

**Ephesians 2:8**

<sup>8</sup> *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—*

Although grace is **free**, it is provided at a tremendous **cost** – the **life** of Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:8 <sup>s</sup> But God put his love on the line for us by offering his Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatever to him.

When God looks at us through eyes of **grace**. He sees the **perfection of Christ**.

Galatians 2:21 “I do not treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die.”

Right standing with God is only **possible** through the **sacrifice** of Christ.

## *Focal Point . . .*

### Responding to God’s Gift of Salvation

#### 1. **Receive** it.

John 1:12 “But to all who did accept him and believe in him he gave the right to become children of God.”

#### 2. **Refill** yourself with it.

Psalms 18:28 “You, O LORD, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.”

Simple commitments:

**Wait** before starting your day – commit daily to **walk** with God that day.

Allow the **Word** of God to daily **wash** your heart.

**Write** what God has said to you, done for you, and promised you as a **witness** of His presence.

**Welcome** the God’s presence through daily personal **worship** and fellowship with other believers.

#### 3. **Reflect** it to others.

John 13:34-35 “So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. 35 Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

Through...

...living a life of **purpose**

...seizing opportunities to **serve** others

...using our **gifts** and talents to help **reach** people for **Christ**

Our personal response to God’s personal gift of love allows us to **uniquely** impact our world.

## *Turning Point . . .*

God’s love is personal, and it has your name on it. His perfect plan for your life is **personal**; it also has your name on it.

John 3:16 “For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

Our challenge:

Believers – simply ask, “Father God – How am I celebrating the gift of salvation that You gave me?”

Seekers – the first step to experiencing God’s gift of salvation is by accepting it. To invite Christ into your heart, simply pray,

*Father God, I come before you today, asking you to save me.*

*I invite your Son Jesus Christ into my heart to be my Lord and Savior.*

*Please forgive me of sin in my life; cleanse my heart and my spirit.*

*Father, I want to celebrate Christmas this year by accepting your gift of salvation. And with your help, guide me toward being the person you created me to be.*

*In Jesus’ name -- Amen*