

God and Sinners Reconciled

Luk 2:8-11 ESV And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, **I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.** 11 For **unto you is born this day** in the city of David a **Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**

The true significance of the birth of Jesus only makes sense when we understand the depth of sin's devastation upon mankind and the world. When sin entered the world, everything changed. Adam's eyes were opened ... an enemy of God, enslaved to sin, and spiritually dead...fig leaves—relying on his own self-righteousness to hide the guilt...hid from God. The consequences were immediate and devastating—cursed earth, cast out of the garden, separated from fellowship with God....Sin spread...rebellion and wickedness...the flood was needed. Humanity - hopeless, unable to restore what was lost, in need of redemption. But God also **promised** that one day, the offspring of Eve would crush the **serpent's head**. **And this is why Jesus came**. This is what Christmas is all about—the hope of redemption, the defeat of sin, and the restoration of our relationship with God. **Only GOD HIMSELF could set things right again** - The birth of Jesus was like a giant cosmic footstep into history - Jesus to Satan "I'm comin for ya"

- 1Jn 3:8 ESVThe reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.....

What happened when sin entered the world?

Sin separates us from God (man died, hid from God and was expelled)

- Isa 59:2 - But your iniquities have made a **separation** between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.
- Rom 8:7 ESV For the mind that is set on the flesh is **hostile** to God, for it **does not submit** to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

Sin corrupted creation - collateral damage (it was created good, then God cursed the ground)

- Rom 8:19-22 ESV For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to **futility**, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, **in hope** 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.
 - Futility=frustration, decay, purposelessness. The natural world became subject to death, decay, and disorder as a consequence of humanity's sin.

Why Did Jesus Come Into the World (only he can solve man's problem (not fig leaves, blood is needed)

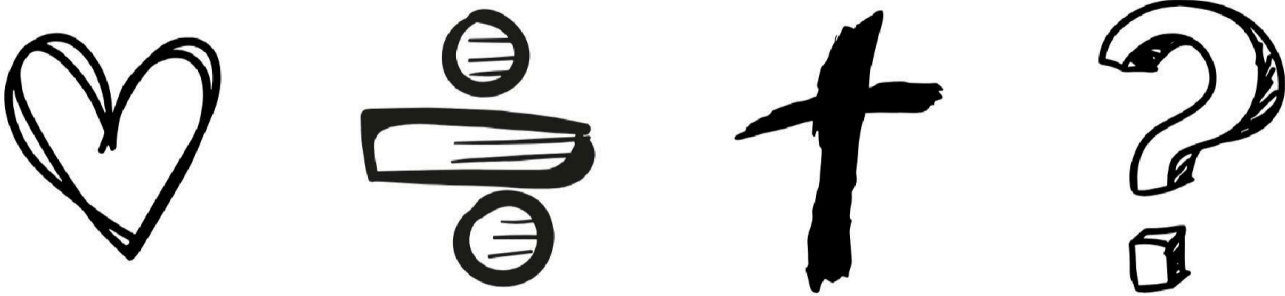
- 1Ti 1:15-16 ESV The saying is **trustworthy** and deserving of **full acceptance**, that **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners**, of whom I am the foremost. 16 But I received **mercy** for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his **perfect patience** as an **example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life**.

Reconciliation

- Col 1:19-23 For in him **all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell**, 20 and through him to **reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven**, making **peace by the blood** of his cross. 21 And you, who **once were alienated and hostile** in mind, **doing evil deeds**,
 - God did it Himself - all fullness of God, INCARNATION - Immanuel God with us
 - RECONCILIATION two previously alienated parties coming to peace with each other

- ATONEMENT Blood (of a perfect sacrifice was required) (not fig leaves - filthy rags)
- Alienated, hostile and evil deeds → holy (REDEMPTION)
- **SLIDE 22** he has now **reconciled** in his body of flesh by his death, in order **to present you holy and blameless and above reproach** before him, 23 if indeed you **continue** in the faith, **stable** and **steadfast, not shifting** from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.
 - **NEW SLIDE** and RECONCILED (JUSTIFIED, SANCTIFIED, GLORIFIED)
 - A call to continue stable (foundation), steadfast (resolve) not shifting ... Think of STABLE like tree roots, and STEADFAST as the tree not pushed over in heavy wind
 - This gospel is being **proclaimed in all creation** - the HOPE OF THE GOSPEL PROCLAIMED

A simple Gospel



HEART - God Loves Me

Psa 100:5 - For the Lord is **good**; his steadfast **love** endures forever.

- God is GOOD his steadfast LOVE

DIVISION SIGN - Sin Separates Me

Isa 59:2 your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God...

- (his goodness means he must deal with sin and rebellion)

CROSS - Jesus Rescues Me

Rom 5:8 But God shows his **love** for us in that **while we were still sinners, Christ died** for us.

- (his love moves him to die in our place)

QUESTION MARK - Will I Trust Jesus?

- **Rom 10:9** If you confess with your mouth that **Jesus is Lord** and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
- The resurrection proves sin has been abolished (wages of sin is death) (death no longer has a hold on him)

This is what Christmas is all about.

This is God and Sinners Reconciled