

THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS

PT.3

The Son Came To Reveal The Father

John 14:9

Welcome back to Vida Online.

Welcome to those who may be watching today for the first time,

My name is J.C. Mejia, and J.C. stands for James Christian, but my friends and family call me J.C., and I'm the Lead Pastor here at Vida Church in Delano, CA.

We will be taking a break from Romans for a few weeks and will resume with Romans in 2026.

Today, is the third Sunday of Advent or the Christmas season.

These are the four purposes:

TO DESTROY SATAN'S WORK

TO TAKE AWAY OUR SIN

TO REVEAL THE FATHER

TO PREPARE FOR HIS RETURN

CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT CHRIST AND THE GOSPEL.

The Gospel, God's method of saving humankind from sin, has ADVENT at its core.

All of the Old Testament prophets and psalmists declared with faith and certainty of Christ's advent.

All four Gospels are about Christ's coming, missions, and message.

The last book of the Bible, “Revelation,” which could also be titled “The unveiling of Christ,” is about the final results of Christ’s first and second advent.

**That’s what Advent means:
“Coming.”**

Christ came once and is coming again.

His first coming is a reminder that Christ is coming a second time.

When Christ came, he came for four things:

To Destroy Satan's Work

To Take Away Our Sin

To Reveal the Father

To Prepare for His Return

THE FIRST WAS NOT A TOPIC, SUBJECT, OR CHARACTER WE MIGHT THINK OF AS PART OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY.

THE FIRST PURPOSE FOR WHICH Christ came was to destroy Satan's work.

Why would this be first?

Because of the chronology of man's history.

It was satan who deceived Adam and Eve, and through their sin, death entered mankind.

The culprit was Adam; the instigator was Satan.

THE SECOND OF FOUR PURPOSES FOR WHICH CHRIST CAME WAS

To Take Away Our Sin

1 John 3:5 (NASB)

5 You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.

THE THIRD OF FOUR PURPOSES FOR WHICH CHRIST CAME WAS:

To Reveal the Father

John 14:9 (ESV)

9 ...Whoever has seen me has seen the Father...

**Why did Jesus say this statement,
“Whoever has seen me, has seen
the Father?”**

Who did Jesus say this to?

**Jesus said this to His disciple
Philip.**

**Some of Christ’s followers had
questions for Jesus about the end
of His life and His return to the
Father.**

John 14:1-4 (NLT)

1 “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.

John 14:1-4 (NLT)

2 There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

John 14:1-4 (NLT)

3 When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.

John 14:1-4 (NLT)

4 And you know the way to where I am going.”

As a result of what Jesus said:

John 13:36 (NLT)

36 Simon Peter asked, “Lord, where are you going?”

Thomas followed Peter by asking:

John 14:5 (NLT)

5 ...Thomas said:“ We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

John 14:6 (NLT)

6 Jesus told him [Thomas], “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the FATHER except through me.

Phillip made a personal request:

John 14:8 (NLT)

8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”

Philip asked a profound question.

While Peter and Thomas asked about where and how to get to where Jesus was going, Phillip asked Jesus to show them the Father...

**So again, Peter asked, “WHERE?”
Thomas asked, “HOW CAN WE GET
THERE?”**

Phillip asked, “SHOW US THE FATHER TO WHOM YOU ARE GOING OFF TO.”

HE responds to Phillips' request in the following way:

John 14:9 (NLT)

9 Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?”

Phillip DOES NOT DOUBT that Jesus is the Son of the Father.

Phillip only knows what the Father is like based on all he had heard and read about GOD:

As a Jewish man, Phillip knew of the Father based on God's history with Israel.

This History included powerful revelations of God, like the THUNDER AND LIGHTNING ON MT. SINAI.

History included the Prophet ISAIAH'S vision of the LORD HIGH AND LIFTED UP, and the Hem of his MAJESTIC ROBE filling the temple.

EZEKIEL, the prophet, was revealed as a God of FIRE.

MAYBE

When Phillip asked Jesus to show them the Father, he was asking for a glimpse of all he had read and heard about God and his powerful manifestations.

At that moment, Jesus says to Phillip, “If you’ve seen me, you’ve seen the Father!”

IMAGINE THAT:

Phillip wants Jesus to show them a revelation of the Father that would amaze them...

Jesus only responds, “If you’ve seen me, you’ve seen the Father.”

Imagine the silence after that simple statement.

No fire.

No lighting or thunder.

No revelation of the throne of God.

Jesus said, “If you’ve seen me, you’ve seen the Father.”

That simple.

The apostles had walked closely with Jesus for three years.

The apostles knew he was God the Son, and yet, it seems they did not understand that Jesus was a perfect reflection of the Father.

Look at Phillip's first impression of JESUS:

John 1:45 (NASB)

45 Philip *found Nathanael and *said to him, "We have found Him of

whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

WHAT PHILLIP SAID WAS TRUE.

JESUS WAS CERTAINLY THE PERFECT ONE WHO HELD UP THE STANDARDS OF THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS.

**PHILLIP KNEW GOD ONLY THROUGH THE LAW AND PROPHETS,
AND THOUGH IT WAS TRUE THEOLOGICALLY,
IT WAS
DISTANT RELATIONALLY.**

TITLE:

The Purpose of Christmas Was to Reveal the FATHER

Jesus not only revealed the Father to Phillip, and to Peter and Thomas, but also to the entire human race by saying, “If you’ve seen me, you’ve seen the Father.”

**Jesus is saying, you’re going to see and know the Father in a way you’ve never known HIM
before...THROUGH ME.**

**HERE'S SOMETHING TO BE CARE
OF:**

**Beware of thinking that Jesus is
saying He is the Father...**

**THE FATHER AND THE SON ARE
TWO DISTINCT PERSONS...**

**Jesus is saying, I am in such unity
with the Father that if you see me,
you're seeing him.**

**My unity and nature reflect the
Father's nature.**

**There's nothing in me that is
contradictory to the Father.**

Nevertheless, Jesus revealed something about the Father that the world had yet to see.

The world had known the Father as I said before, as majestic, omnipotent, and holy.

The world had known or heard of the Father as a mighty and distant GOD.

Now, Jesus was revealing the Father as EMMANUEL, “GOD WITH US.”

**Jesus revealed the Father's heart
and the Father's closeness.**

**Phillip wanted to see the power of
what the Father had revealed before,
But Jesus revealed the Father's
heart of intimacy and closeness.**

Phillip wanted

**JESUS TO SHOW HIM THE FATHER
IN THE SAME WAY ALL HIS
ANCESTORS HAD SEEN.**

Even though God had revealed himself in the way Phillip wanted Jesus to reveal the Father,

That kind of massive and spectacular revelation of God did not change humanity.

The more that the world knew of the splendor and power of God, the worse it became morally.

How can you say that, Pastor JC?

Well, look at EXODUS, for example.

As God revealed his power and majesty to Pharaoh and Egypt, did they repent or get worse?

The more God revealed his power and majesty to Israel in the wilderness, did they get better or get worse?

The more you read Israel's history do you find Israel getting better or worse as they hear more from and about God from the prophet's?

WITHOUT A DOUBT: WORSE.

The more the world seems to know about God theologically or through creation, does it seem that world knows that God is interested in them?

Does knowing more about God and his creation change man, or does it make him worse?

It's made men worse...

It's why Jesus came.

Jesus came to reveal the Father in a way that would change men and

women through a relationship with the Father...

In John 14:6, Jesus said, “No one comes to the Father, except through me.”

Before Jesus, the attributes of God that were known were:

His Omniscience.

His Omnipotence.

His Omnipresence.

His Holiness.

His Providence.

But Jesus came and revealed the Father's LOVE in an intimate way the World had never known.

John 3:16-17 (ESV)

16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16-17 (ESV)

17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Jesus never downplayed or contradicted God's power, righteousness, justice, and holiness, but to those qualities, Jesus revealed THE FATHER AND HIS HEART OF LOVE.

In the intimate Love of the Father, we are changed and transformed.

The world has learned more and more about the vastness of the universe.

To some, as they learn about the far reaches of the universe. To them, if there is a creator, God is far and unknowable.

They must think:

“The greater the universe and its creator, the less He must be interested in us and in how we live our lives.”

For many, unless they are atheists, there is a sense that God exists, but there is no closeness or intimacy with the creator.

The agnostic cannot name God and claims that God is unknowable.

The coming of Jesus brought a new understanding of the Father, one that was close and disposed to love mankind.

The fourth verse of JOY TO THE WORLD says just that:

“He rules the world, with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove. The glories of righteousness...and WONDERS OF HIS LOVE.”

Truth is connected to this righteousness.

Grace is connected to the love of the Father.

The truth is that he is righteous and we are not.

Grace is that though we are unworthy, we wonder at His Love for us.

Jesus changed the cold and distant view of God into one of Love and Nearness...

“If you have seen me, Phillip, you have seen the father.”

YES, A FATHER IS DISCIPLINARY.

“Yes, the Father is holy, righteous, and just...”

But if you have seen me for the last three years, PHILLIP, you have seen the FATHER.

The Father is close.

The Father is caring.

The Father is sacrificial.

The Father is honest.

The Father is gracious.

The Father is LOVE.

The stern, disciplinary father is also one who will do anything to save a lost child.

He's a father who will rescue a child who has gone missing.

He's a father who will sacrifice to save his son or daughter.

He will never leave or abandon that child.

If you have seen me, you have seen the Father's truth and love.

You and I, as Christians, as the bride of Christ, are born again to

**new life, and this new life does two things to us:
It makes us holy, and it makes us loving.**

Jesus' goal for his people is that you and I would say, as Jesus said,

“If you see my changed life and my love for others, you're seeing Jesus, and if you see Jesus, you'll see the Father.”

Phillip had been with Jesus, but Phillip had not made the connection that seeing Jesus was seeing the Father's heart of love.

John 14:9 (NLT)

9 Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?”

Jesus said to Phillip, I’ve been with you and you still don’t know who I am.

Jesus knows that Phillip knows that Jesus is God the Son, the Savior, etc...

**But to KNOW means to really know
Jesus' ways, not just his title.**

It's like Jesus was saying,

**“Phillip, you know who I am, but you
have yet to know HOW I am, and if
you did, then you would see the
Father.”**

**Knowing WHO Jesus is not the
same as knowing HOW Jesus is.**

**Phillip, if you put the WHO and HOW
together, you know the FATHER!**

**Jesus says, Phillip, you've been
with me all this time...**

What did you learn about HOW I am?

Three moments where Phillip failed to make the connection between who Jesus was and HOW Jesus was.

Three moments where Phillip did not realize that what Jesus did was a revelation of the FATHER:

Revelation no. 1 - The Father invites you to salvation. [John 1:43]

In John 1:43, Phillip was the first disciple to whom Jesus said the words, “Follow Me.

Yes, two other disciples had begun to follow Jesus up to that point.

Andrew and his brother Peter had started following Jesus up to that point.

But after them, Phillip was the first Jesus would say, “FOLLOW ME,” to.

The heart of the Father is that you would follow Christ the Son.

You're watching this sermon or in church today because the Love of the Father is calling you to follow Jesus.

Revelation no. 2 - The Father provides for all your needs [John 6:1-13].

When a need to feed five thousand came about, observe how Jesus used it as an opportunity to reveal THE FATHER to Phillip:

John 6:5-7 (NLT)

5 Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, "Where

can we buy bread to feed all these people?”

John 6:5-7 (NLT)

6 He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do.

John 6:5-7 (NLT)

7 Philip replied, “Even if we worked for months, we wouldn’t have enough money to feed them!”

PHILLIP saw the need and Phillip saw that he did not have the resources to do something about it.

But Phillip did not see the Father's heart of compassion for those who are hungry.

Jesus revealed that we can trust in the Father's provision for all of our needs.

Phillip was tested to see what he would say about feeding five thousand.

Phillip, being with Jesus, did not realize that the Father can do much with little.

You can trust that the father cares for you and will, in some way or another, provide for all your needs.

ALL YOUR NEEDS INCLUDE YOUR PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS.

“The Lord is your father and your shepherd.”

**Revelation no. 3 - The Father reveals Himself to people through Jesus.
[John 14:9]**

Before Salvation, we had ideas about God that were wrong.

We had ideas about God that kept us distant.

We were lost and felt like God was so far away and that had no interest in what kept us up at night.

Jesus has revealed the heart of the Father to us as He did to Phillip.

John 14:9 (NLT)

9 Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?”

The Father invites you to Himself through Jesus.

The Father will provide all your needs through His Son, Jesus Christ.

The Father's nature is revealed through knowing Jesus, His Son.

**DO YOU KNOW HOW TO KNOW
WHAT GOD IS LIKE?**

LOOK AT JESUS

Colossians 1:15 (NLT)

15 Christ is the visible image of the invisible God...

**In the hymn O COME LET US
ADORE HIM, there is a line from
John 1:14 that says,**

**“Word of the Father, now in flesh
appearing.”**

**Jesus is the Father’s greatest and
final word to us.**

A word of mercy.

A word of peace.

A word of provision.

A word of grace.

A word of love.

A word of salvation.

There is no other word.

**Jesus is God's final word to
mankind.**

Hebrews 1:1-3 (NLT)

**1 Long ago God spoke many times
and in many ways to our ancestors
through the prophets.**

Hebrews 1:1-3 (NLT)

**2 And now in these final days, he
has spoken to us through his Son...**

Hebrews 1:1-3 (NLT)

3 The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven.

If you have seen the Son, you have seen the Father.

The third purpose of Christmas was for Christ to reveal the Father.

GOSPEL

To reveal the Father's desire to save sinners through Christ Jesus.

The Gospel is the power of God for salvation for those who believe.

What is the Gospel?

ALL WERE BORN INTO SIN.

NO ONE CAN SAVE THEMSELVES.

**ONLY CHRIST CAN SAVE YOU, SO
BOW TO CHRIST THE LORD.**

Repent and believe the Gospel.

Admit you're a sinner and that you can't save yourself.

Believe Jesus Christ died in your place and is alive today.

Confess the fact that Christ is Lord and King.

LORD JESUS

**I BELIEVE YOU ARE THE SON OF
GOD**

I BELIEVE THAT ON THE CROSS,

**YOU TOOK MY SIN, MY SHAME,
AND MY GUILT;**

AND YOU DIED FOR IT.

**I BELIEVE YOU FACED HELL FOR
ME;**

**SO THAT I WOULD NOT HAVE TO
GO;**

AND YOU ROSE FROM THE DEAD,

TO GIVE ME A PLACE IN HEAVEN,

A PURPOSE ON EARTH,

**AND A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR
FATHER.**

TODAY LORD JESUS,

**I TURN FROM MY SIN
TO BE BORN AGAIN.**

GOD IS MY FATHER,

JESUS IS MY SAVIOR,

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS MY HELPER,

THE BIBLE'S MY GUIDE

AND HEAVEN IS MY HOME...

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER,
THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT,
AMEN.**

BLESSING:

NUMBERS 6:24-26 (ESV)

**THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP
YOU;**

**THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE TO
SHINE UPON YOU AND BE
GRACIOUS TO YOU; THE LORD
LIFT UP HIS COUNTENANCE UPON
YOU AND GIVE YOU PEACE.**

**Hope to see you here again or in
person.**

**GRACE AND PEACE TO YOU FROM
GOD OUR FATHER AND THE LORD
JESUS CHRIST**