THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS PT.2

Christ The Sin-Taker

1 John 3:5

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 first Sunday of Advent or the Christmas season.

Over the next there Sundays, I will be sharing on the FOUR PURPOSES OF CHRISTMAS.

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

Which we looked at last week.

To Take Away Our Sin

To Reveal the Father

To Prepare for His Return

The first is 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.

So Christ first appeared to destroy the works of the devil.

The works of the devil are death, darkness, and lawlessness…

These are the result of sin.

Man is born into sin, and sin comes with a death sentence.

Man is born into darkness, and sin is that darkness which keeps the things of God away from him.

Page 8 of 38

Sin and Darkness come with death, both physical death and spiritual death.

So Christ appeared to take away sins.

Without Christ's advent, there is no taking away of sin.

Christ had to come to take what mankind was corrupted by.

So we will stay in this verse, and the verse itself will be our outline.

Before we begin, I will address the topic of the word that appeared since it was in last week's verse and this week's verse.

The word appeared means to make visible or make clear.

So the Son of God was made visible and clear.

John implies that Jesus already existed but now appeared to the world.

For Jesus to be made visible or made clear doesn't mean to be made near, because he was "Emmanuel: God with Us" all along.

God has always been near to humanity, but most of humanity did not know it.

Now, from the moment of Christ's birth, God was incarnate, God the Son appeared.

But why did the Son of God appear?

Last week we learned that He first appeared to destroy the works of the devil.

This week we will recall that:

Christ appeared in order to take away sins.

John speaks of sins. Plural here.

Christ came to take the total number of sins…a number a great statistician could never calculate.

Think of the sum total of humans that have existed since Adam and Eve…

Christian Demographers have estimated a total number of 110 billion humans.

Now take 110 Billion and multiply the sins committed by each one…

The number of sins are innumerable by any one us!

Yet Christ came so that the sins of the world and the wrath of God would be heaped upon him instead of any man who would be saved.

The number of sins on earth is growing faster than the national debt of the United States of America.

The U.S. national debt is growing by $4.14 million per minute and $248 million per hour!

Yet all the sins of the world have been placed on Christ!

Sins past, present, and future…

Romans 5:20 (NLT)
20 …But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant.

Sad to think that people would reject the Gospel rather than repent and believe the Gospel for salvation from sin!

What is sin you might ask?

So Jesus came to take away sins…

"Sin" is missing the target of God's standard; missing the mark willfully or through ignorance.

"Sin" includes missing the target of God's standards, breaking God's divine law, in thoughts, words, and deeds.

Jesus came to take away sins!

What does the phrase TAKE AWAY SINS mean?

Before Christ came, God gave ways for the sins of his people to be taken away.

This was a preview of what Christ would eventually do completely, once and for all.

They would bring an animal, and the High Priest would place his hands on the head of the animal, transferring the sin of the people, to the animal and the animal would be sent into the wilderness.

As the animal would run off into the wilderness, it would take away the sins of the people.

That animal was known as "THE SCAPEGOAT."

Jesus was not a Goat, except that Jesus is the GREATEST OF ALL TIME.

But Jesus is not a Goat, Jesus is the lamb of God

John 1:29 (NLT)
29 The next day John [the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
So all the sins were placed on Christ so that he might take them away into the wilderness, never to be remembered.

The picture of taking sins also has other meanings:

To take sins also means LIST SINS and LIFT SINS.

So imagine Jesus taking all the listed sins of 110 billion humans, who have sinned in thought, word, and action….

It makes no difference if people sinned willingly or ignorantly…they each violated God's holy law.

It makes no difference how much people may try to excuse their sin…each violated God's Holy Law…

Yet on the Cross, Christ saw the list of sins of all 110 billion people…
He then lifted them, and bore them upon himself, and took them away on the CROSS!

Christ not only is the destroyer of Satan's work,
But Christ is the world's greatest weight lifter!

In your life personally,

Christ knew the list of all your sins against God's holy law, got beneath your sins, sins committed in thoughts, words, and actions, lifted them on himself, and took them away…

Is there a better reason to rejoice during Christmas?!

So John writes:

1 John 3:5 (NASB)

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

John wants to affirm something here…

John states that Christ appeared to take away sins, but just because he took away sins doesn't mean that Christ sinned.

So John makes it explicitly clear that IN CHRIST THERE IS NO SIN.

IN CHRIST, THERE WAS NO MISSING THE MARK IN ANY WAY, IN HIS THOUGHTS, WORDS, AND DEEDS.

THERE WAS NO SIN IN CHRIST.

Jesus never missed the mark and yet he lifted our sins upon himself:

Jesus, fully God and fully man, was confronted with the same powers of temptation, overcoming each and every one.

Jesus not only confronted sin and overcame it every time, but also overcame its consequences in people's lives.

Every single healing Jesus did was overcoming the consequences of sin.

Every single demon he cast out of people was overcoming the consequences of sin.

Every single person he raised from the dead was overcoming the consequences of sin.

The sinless was not only powerful for himself, but was overflowing with power to destroy the results of sin in others.

Jesus has the power to reverse the effects of sin, restoring people to their normal condition.

Think of the man who was brought down to Jesus through the roof.

Jesus couples the forgiveness of sin with a reversal of its paralyzing effects.

Luke 5:23-25 (ESV)
23 Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you, 'or to say, 'Rise and walk'?
24 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the man who was paralyzed—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home."
25 And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been

lying on and went home, glorifying God.

The man was forgiven and healed.

Forgiven of sin and given a miracle that made the paralytic walk again.

I'm not saying that the man sinned and was paralyzed as a punishment.
I'm saying that we have all sorts of things wrong with us because of sin and death.

Jesus came to give himself so that we might receive forgiveness of sin and ultimately be made free from sin's results.

Christmas time is a time of exchanges.

Gift exchanges on Christmas.

Exchanges and returns at retail stores.

Exchange of food.

Exchange of relationships.

But the greatest exchange happened when God gave His son.

The beautiful exchange: The one who had no sin lifted sin and took sin away.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)
21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

Matthew affirms this in His Gospel:

Matthew 1:21 (ESV)
21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Think of this incredible and humbling reality about the One who came to take away sins.

Christ is the creator.

Colossians 1:15-16 (NLT)
15 Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.
He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,
16 for through Him God created everything
in the heavenly realms and on earth.
He [Christ] made the things we can see
and the things we can't see—
such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.
Everything was created through Him and for Him.

So Christ is the creator of all things, including the 110 billion souls who have ever existed.

He is the creator of all the known and unknown parts of the universe.

Psalms 33:6 (NLT)
6 The LORD merely spoke,
and the heavens were created.
He breathed the word,
and all the stars were born.

All the stars were born from his breath…

Guess what else was born from his breath?

When it comes to Christ, not only was He fully divine, and fully a human…

But in him were all human beings because all human beings came from him.

All of humanity was in Christ and Christ was ,able take the sins of humanity upon himself.

Here's this great and beautiful exchange:

Christ, who birthed humanity, was born of the same humanity that he created.

Think of being born, willfully, to one of your children… process that.

You know them.

You know their weakness and penchant for irresponsibility.

Would you be willing to be your child's child?

Yet Christ humbled himself to be born of a woman…

So Christ took all the sins of man upon himself, and not only did Christ take

the sins of mankind upon himself, but the results of sin upon himself.

The results of sin are our sickness, pain, and suffering.

It would be impossible to take sins away without feeling the results of those sins.

Where do we see this?

Upon the cross.

It was inevitable that for Christ to take our sins, he would also suffer the results of our sins.

Christ appeared, the same one from whom the entire race came, and he gathered and bore all of its sin and sorrow on himself.

Sin and sorrow are inseparably coexistent.

Wherever there is sin, there is suffering.

We all know more or less the first verse of Joy to the world:

Joy to the world; the Lord is come;
Let Earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing

But the third verse declares the inseparability of sin and sorrow and with it, prophecy's that when Christ returns the second time, Sin and Sorrow will cease, overtaking the curse of sin:

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found.

1 John 3:5 (NASB)
5 You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.

God the Son appeared in His first advent.

The Word of God, God the Son, became flesh and lived among us.

He came to take away your sins.

We praise Him because our sins are lifted and carried away by the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL

So, pastor, if Christ bore the sins of the world, why can't that be enough to save all men universally?

Because God's method of choice to save mankind is through the Gospel, which means "GOOD NEWS."

Romans 1:16 (ESV)
16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes..

A man is declared just, and his sins are forgiven by God when he repents and believes the Gospel.

What is the Gospel you might ask?

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