

- **\*Philippians 2:5-8\*** Our focus text for this year establishes a very important fact...Jesus Christ, the Son of God came to earth, lived, and died as a man. This fact is part of the very foundation of the Christian faith. Many have sought to discredit Christianity by trying to prove that Jesus was not in fact God in the flesh, but that He was a fraud and imposter. The truth remains, though, that Jesus did come to this earth, and we must be sure of our belief in that fact.
- But there is something else that we also come to understand from this text...we come to understand a little bit as to why Jesus came to this earth. **v.3** makes it clear that Jesus came to earth because his focus was on the good of others and not on Himself. I would suggest that knowing the why of Jesus's coming is very important to our faith. Just knowing this one reason why Jesus came should #1 resonate with us because of His great love. Secondly, it should help us to more fully appreciate what he did. His selflessness and love are our perfect example. The truth is that there are many more reasons why Jesus came to this earth. Over the next couple of months we will look at a list that I stumbled across online of 15 reasons why Jesus came to earth. My hope is that we will be edified by these reasons for Jesus's coming, and that our faith will be strengthened by the example of our Lord. This evening, we will consider the first 4 reasons why Jesus came to earth.

### 1) Jesus came into the world to save sinners. (I Timothy 1:15)

- A. In this text, Paul is focusing on the great power of God's grace while also making this reason for Jesus coming very clear. **(I Tim. 1:12-16)**
1. Paul was a sinner just like the rest of us, and he acknowledges just how great the grace of Jesus is in the fact that He forgave Paul and put him into service in the Kingdom.
  2. He then emphasizes to Timothy the fact that this is why Jesus came into this world. He came to save those who were in need of salvation.
  3. We all have sinned **(Rom. 3:23)** and we are going to be punished if we continue to live in sin, but thanks be to God for that grace of Jesus that gives eternal life. **(Rom. 6:23)**
  4. Jesus came to this earth for you and He came to this earth for me. If that doesn't strike a chord within each of us then I don't know what will. Jesus loved me enough to die for me. Praise Him for His love!
- B. Paul also teaches us that we are not beyond the saving grace of our Lord.
1. This point is slipped into the end of **v.15**. Paul acknowledges his sinful past and that he had done some pretty horrible things. It is not beyond reason to think that Paul had interactions with some family members of those he had cast his vote against.
  2. Yet, he knows that God's grace is more abundant than any sin, and that we all can be forgiven. He even states that his forgiveness in Christ can be used as an example to others that we all can be forgiven if we come to Jesus.
  3. Are there things in our lives that we are not proud of? Absolutely, I'd venture to say that every single one of us has things in our lives that we wish we could take back and never think about again. I know Paul felt that way, yet he knew the perfect grace of Jesus and He was about to move on. Jesus came to this earth to forgive us sinners.

### 2) Jesus came into the world to call sinners to repentance. (Mark 2:17)

- A. As Jesus sits among the people, He is questioned by the Jewish leadership as to how He could be among the presence of such sinners. **(Mark 2:15-17)**
1. While Jesus was eating and drinking, tax collectors and sinners come to sit and eat with Him and His disciples. This causes a big fuss with the Jews because they did not think it proper for a righteous person to be in the company of such "sinners".
  2. Jesus, however, responds in a way that they never would have expected. Jesus makes it clear to them that these are the exact people that He came to save. He came to save those who were in need of salvation, those who were sick.
  3. His reasoning is completely logical. We don't go to the doctor when we are in perfect health, but we go when we are in need of getting better. The Great Physician came to this earth to help those who were sick come to better health.
  4. Jesus came to teach those who were sick the way to get better. He came to call them to a higher standard of living this life.
- B. This text reminds me that all people are in need of the Gospel...not just the "righteous."
1. It is so easy for us to get in the mindset that those who grew up in Christian homes are the ones who are of the right stock as far as receiving the gospel. These Jewish leaders seemed to be thinking along this line.
  2. "How dare this supposed teacher spend time with those who are sinners!" was their train of thought, yet, they could recognize that these were exactly the people who needed the Gospel.
  3. Those who grew up in Christian homes have always been taught those things concerning Jesus and salvation, but we need to not forget the need of all people to come to Jesus, including those who have never been in this type of an environment. May we give effort to reach those people, as well. After all, Jesus came to bring them to repentance, too.

### 3) Jesus came into the world to seek and save the lost. (Luke 19:10)

- A. As Jesus is passing through Jericho, He spends some time with a chief tax collector named Zaccheus. (Luke 19:1-10)
1. Again, this brings rebuke from the crowd that has gathered around as they grumble about Him being the guest of a man who is a sinner.
  2. Because of his occupation, Zaccheus was considered the worst of sinners. His job as a chief tax collector would have made him viewed as a sellout to the Jews.
  3. To have Jesus be his guest was sure sign to many that Jesus just didn't know how things were supposed to work. Zaccheus was a sellout who had betrayed his people, and in their minds Jesus should have had no business with him.
  4. However, Jesus affirms that Zaccheus was found faithful and that he was just as much a son of Abraham as the rest. He was lost, and Jesus came to save him and all others were lost.
- B. Jesus isn't giving up on any of those who have gone astray.
1. Jesus came to this earth to seek those who were lost and bring them back into the fold.
  2. Jesus speaks to this point in His parable of the lost sheep in **Luke 15:1-7**. Again, this parable is in response to people grumbling over His teaching of tax collectors and sinners.
  3. Jesus speaks about the man who loses one sheep and he goes everywhere to find it. He is willing to even let one of his sheep go missing without being found. Once the sheep is found, the man rejoices greatly over that which was lost and now is found. Our Lord came to this earth to find those who have gone astray. Each and every person who has left the fold of God is top priority for Jesus, and we need to have that same kind of attitude. Those are the people who Jesus came to this earth for, and they are the people we need to be seeking to save.

### 4) Jesus came into the world to demonstrate the true purposes of life and to give Himself as a ransom. (Matthew 20:28)

- A. This text of **Matthew 20:20-28**, is the parallel passage to **Mark 10:35-45** which was our beginning text from our Serving the Kingdom lesson from the beginning of this month and it is a great passage to sum up these reasons why Jesus came to the earth.
1. The mother of James and John requests that her sons be put into a place of prominence in Jesus's Kingdom, and Jesus responds with the fact that seeking a place of prominence shouldn't be the main focus in this life.
  2. He confirms this by making it known that even He did not come down from heaven to seek prominence or to be served, but that He came so that He could serve others, and give His life as a ransom for the sins of many.
  3. This perfect act of love truly exemplifies what we discussed at the opening with **Philippians 2:5-8**. Jesus was focused solely on the good of others. He was fully concerned with making sure that all people had the opportunity for salvation. In order to do that, He had to give Himself to die on the tree. No greater love is known that to give up your life for another, and Jesus did that for all people. He left the perfect place of heaven to die on a tree for all people, many of which who would reject Him. He came to serve those who were not worthy or willing to show appreciation for what he was doing.
  4. he did all of this to serve others and to teach that service of others is the greatest thing we can do in this life. He came to serve and to teach others how to serve.
- B. If the Son of God was willing to come to earth for the purpose of serving those lower than He, then we ought to be willing to serve all other people, even if we don't think they deserve it.
1. This first set of reasons Jesus came to die go perfectly with our focus for this year. One of the reasons we ought to serve others is because Jesus came to this earth to serve others.
  2. If the Son of God can give up heaven and His form like God then shouldn't we be willing to do the same? Our Lord has given up so much more than we ever could for a people who are fully unworthy...We need to consider than when we have opportunity to serve others.
  3. Our lives shouldn't be focused on getting what I think I deserve as the sons of Zebedee thought, but they should be focused on doing what we can to serve those around us.
  4. The cool thing about that is that when we all focus on serving one another instead of just ourselves, we are still taken care of because someone is looking out for us, too. Jesus came to look out for the well being of others, may we ever strive to follow His great example of selflessness.

I greatly hope that we have all been encouraged and motivated by not just the fact that Jesus came to this earth, but why it is that He came of this earth. The simplified reason for this study that Jesus came to this earth was so that you and I might have a hope of heaven as our home for all eternity. May God help us to not waste the coming of Jesus to the earth. May we live lives that show our understanding for His coming. May we glorify Him and serve others in all that we do.