

Shopping for the Reason or the Season?

Hebrews 2:5-18

AIM: This sermon will address the basic understanding of the true meaning of Christmas from two different viewpoints: 1.) The world's perspective and 2.) God's perspective. We will examine the conflict that exists between these two viewpoints in order to understand and appreciate the true meaning of Christmas.

Five Reasons for the Season

- During this section we will explore five basic reasons for celebrating Christmas this season. Our focus will be upon five basic reasons that Jesus Christ came to this earth in the incarnate form. Pay close attention to the reasons why Jesus came to earth. It was not merely His birth that changed the world but it was His birth combined with His death and resurrection that has had an eternal impact.

Reason #1 – Jesus Became Our Substitute (v. 2:9)

- **1 John 2:1-2** – My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.
- This main point will focus our attention on looking at the baby Jesus not as a mere baby but as the last sin offering ever needed for mankind. Jesus grew up and chose to die on the cross so that each of us could live.

Reason #2 – Jesus Pioneered Our Salvation (v. 2:10)

- **Acts 4:12** – Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.
- This main point will examine Jesus as the only source of salvation that is provided to mankind. His birth, life, death, and resurrection has made it possible for us to be saved through the grace of God.

Reason #3 – Jesus Set Us Apart for Holiness (v. 2:11-13)

- **Hebrews 10:11-14** – Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.
- This main point will draw our attention to the issue of holiness. We will see that Jesus Christ was born into this world as the essence of holiness and since he is holy we understand that he is the only one capable of making us holy.

Reason #4 – Jesus Conquered Satan (v. 2:14-15)

- **1 Corinthians 15:55-57** – “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- This main point will draw our attention to the fact that the death of Jesus Christ was not a victory for Satan but rather the victory belonged to Jesus Christ the moment he rose from the grave and defeated death once and for all. As Jesus defeated death, so he also defeated Satan.

Reason #5 – Jesus Became Our Mediator (v. 2:17-18)

- **Hebrews 4:15** – For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.
- This main point will focus our attention upon looking to Jesus as our intercessor before God or better know as our High Priest.

Questions to Consider:

1. What are you shopping for this Christmas season?
2. What are some of the stresses that accompany the Christmas season?
3. Explain in your own words what Christmas is truly about. (*Why did God send Jesus?*)

Application

- **Family Christmas Card** – This Christmas instead of going out and spending a lot of money on Christmas cards, try something new. Make a family Christmas Card in which each member of the family decorates a part of the card and signs it. In the card, tell people (*in your own words*) what Christmas is all about and send the card out to family, friends, and neighbors (*especially those that may not know Jesus Christ as their Savior.*)
- **Be Creative and Let Us Know What You Come Up With!**

Memory Verse:

Luke 2:10-11 – But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.



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