

## WHY CHRISTMAS?

There seems to be a great misunderstanding about Christmas; there are all sorts of ideas about it, so it should not be a surprise if someone asked the question, **“Why Christmas?”** In a small tract like this, it’s difficult to go into any great detail about Christmas, so I shall be brief and condense it.

In the world of marketing and retail sales, Christmas is all about sales: play the seasonal music, advertise and advertise some more, and entice people to spend money. Gifts are nice to give and receive, but that is **NOT** what Christmas is about.

For some people, Christmas should not be celebrated by Christians, but that does not hinder them from accepting the gifts others give them. One of the arguments put forth is the Christmas tree and its alleged pagan origin. Then there are those who argue about the date Christmas is traditionally celebrated in America. (There are some good arguments for and against December 25.) In some countries, the Christmas celebration date is other than December 25. The fact of the matter is, the exact date is not nearly as important the actual event, and that brings us to the question, **“Why Christmas?”**

Man (generically speaking) is a sinner by birth and by choice. First of all, we inherited the sin nature from the first person God created, and that was Adam. Adam was commanded by God NOT to eat of a certain tree in the Garden of Eden. If he did, the consequence would be – death. (“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” Genesis 2:16-17). This included spiritual death, as well as physical death. Adam disobeyed God and ate of the forbidden fruit (“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.” Genesis 3:6) and immediately Adam died spiritually and later he died physically. As Adam and Eve reproduced, the sin nature was passed along to the offspring; the children inherited the sin nature of the parents, and it has been so ever since. (“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:” Romans 5:12).

Now having a sin nature, people began to sin by CHOICE, that is, they made a willful decision to commit various acts of sin, some of which were indescribably bad. No matter how bad the sin was, it was wrong and a holy God had to deal with it according to His Word. God is a God of love and wrath; He first showed His love for His creation by providing a covering for their sin. First in the Garden of Eden, (“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.” Genesis 3:21). Second, He provided a covering through the animal sacrifices for Israel, and finally in the person of Jesus Christ (“How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” Hebrews 9:14). In the Garden He slew an animal and made a covering for Adam & Eve. For Israel, sin was atoned for with the blood and death of innocent animals. The full and final sin atonement was in the person of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary (“And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;” Hebrews 10:11-12). It was necessary for Jesus Christ, as God the Son, to leave Heaven’s glory, and come to earth so that He could pay our sin debt with His blood and death. Just as God the Father is spirit and a spirit cannot die, so too Jesus Christ is a spirit and cannot die, so He needed to take the body of a human, which is what He did. “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” 1 Corinthians 15:22.

Throughout the Old Testament God promised Israel a redeemer Who would be born of a virgin; He would come to save His people from their sins (“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14). In the New Testament God fulfilled that promise as Mary was conceived of by the Holy Ghost; her husband, Joseph, did not have a sexual relationship with Mary; it was all and only of the Holy Ghost. (“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.” Matthew 1:18). Because of this, Jesus was born **WITHOUT** a sin nature and therefore could not sin; He was perfect in every way (“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” Hebrews 4:15 “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:” 1 Peter 1:18-19). He was born for one purpose; to die on Calvary’s Cross as the final and full payment of the sin debt of all humanity for all time (“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.” 1 Timothy 1:15). He did not have to do this on our behalf and endure all of the agony and shame on the Cross, but He did it because of His great love (“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13). Three days after His death and burial He bodily arose from the grave by the power of God. Today He is in Heaven at the right hand of the Father (“But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;” Hebrews 10:12). **THIS IS WHY WE HAVE AND CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS!**

Just as God is a God of love, He is also a God of wrath. Those who reject His Son as Saviour will experience that wrath when they die and enter the place the Bible calls hell (“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” John 3:36 “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20:15). Hell was created by God for the devil and his fallen angels, not His creation. However, being a just and holy God who is bound by His Word, He must sentence all lost people to that abode as the penalty for rejecting Jesus Christ as Saviour. God does not want to do this, but He must; He promised it and He is bound by His very Word.

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God who Himself is God (Jn. 1:1). This Christmas, whoever you are, wherever you are, will you now repent of your sin, and by faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, receive Him as your personal Saviour? He will forgive you, and save you if you will but call upon Him. Receive Christ as your personal Saviour and make this Christmas the celebration of your spiritual birthday. “But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.” (Jn. 20:31) “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” (1 John 5:11-13)

Now you know the answer to the question, “**Why Christmas?**” I repeat what I said a moment ago, “This Christmas, whoever you are, wherever you are, will you now repent of your sin and faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, receive Him as your personal Saviour? He will forgive you and save you if you will but call upon Him. Receive Christ as your personal Saviour and make this Christmas the celebration of your spiritual birthday.”

