



An undenominational publication
devoted to the teachings of Jesus and His
apostles and dedicated to those who seek
the truth.

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SIX REASONS

Why Jesus Came To Earth



We may assume that everyone knows about God's love, but that may not be true. Everyone may not know that God loves them. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son..." may not be as widely known as in years gone by.

God gave His only Son to save us from our sins. John wrote, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us" (1 John 3:16). It is humbling to know that someone thinks us worthy enough to do something for us. To imagine that someone would die for us is almost beyond our ability to comprehend.

But what if one is considered "unworthy"? Would you think it strange that someone would sacrifice himself for an "unworthy" person? Paul wrote that Jesus did just that: "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6-8). Jesus loved us enough to lay down His life for us. And this was done for us while we were sinners, openly rebellious to God.

REASON #1 - Jesus came to "seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10)! Do you recognize how much you need the Lord? Have you given Him your life in obedient faith?

— Charlie Harrison
Church of Christ, Brunswick, Maine

To Show Us The Father

“Philip said, ‘Lord show us the Father and that will be enough for us.’ Jesus answered: ‘Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say ‘Show us the Father.’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing His work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me’” (John 14:8-11).

In a relationship with another person one tries to understand the other person and in doing so to gain a greater respect for him. Sin had severed our relationship with God, but God showed us His great love for us when His Son died on the cross. It was the ultimate evidence of His love.

From the beginning of our created world God has been loving us, sustaining us and giving us hope. In Jesus, He has shown us His desire to redeem us from the sins that we committed against Him. Where else would we find someone who forgives our wrongdoing and disobedience so freely?

Our heavenly Father has no evil intent toward us! He desires a loving relationship with us. God delights in us. He is willing to forgive us through His Son. He has plans for our future. God rejoices over our repentance and return to a loving relationship with Him. He forgives us through the blood of Christ His Son. Let us go boldly to the throne of His grace. He will give us peace that passes all understanding. Put Him on in baptism, be added to His church and continue in the doctrine that He provided in the Scriptures.

REASON #2 - Jesus came to show us what God is like!

— Ellis K Stanley, Sr.
Church of Christ, Bridgeport, Connecticut

Jesus Showed Us the Father In the Gospel of John

“No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made Him known” (John 1:18).

“No one has ever seen the Father except the one who is from God; only He has seen the Father” (John 6:46)

“My teaching is not my own. It comes from Him who sent me. If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.” (John 7:16-18).

To Lead Us Back To God

When we contemplate all the alternatives God had to resolve the problem of sin, it is perplexing why He would send His only Son to reconcile us to Himself. He had already revealed the consequences for mankind's disobedience. He said to Adam and Eve: "the day that you eat of it (the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil) you shall surely die" (Genesis 2:17). To make certain that man would not be able to get back to the Tree of Life and live forever God put him out of the garden and placed guards to block the way (Genesis 3:24).

Because of His sovereign nature, God's justice is always tempered by His mercy and long suffering. He put His eternal plan into action: "to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ" (Ephesians 1:10).

Through death Jesus destroyed Satan who had the power of death (Hebrews 2:14).

Through the victory of Christ over sin and death God's faithful people are promised they will have access to the Tree of Life in heaven. "To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the Tree of Life which is in the paradise of God" (Revelation 2:7). This privilege belongs to those in God's Body, His church.

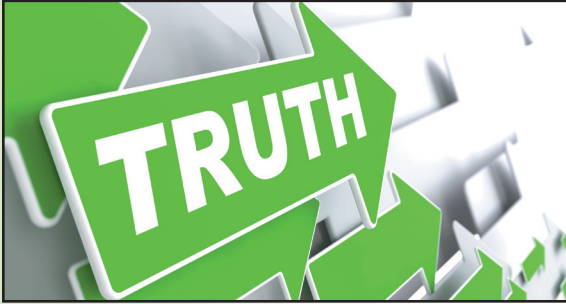
Scripture says: "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Galatians 3:25-27). **REASON #3** - Jesus came to earth to bring us back to our Heavenly Father!

— Herschel Walker



Artist Depiction of
THE TREE OF LIFE

To Reveal True Religion



Early in the ministry of Jesus, He taught His followers that teachers had gone out speaking things that were not true (Matthew 7:15). He spoke of true teaching by informing His followers that teachers would be known by their fruits.

Jesus said: “Not everyone who says to me ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21). Calling Him ‘Lord’ is not necessarily the same as doing ‘the will of My Father.’ Jesus added that on the coming Day of Judgment many will tell Him how they had prophesied, driven out demons and performed miracles ‘in His name.’ However, His response will be: ‘I never knew you.’ Why that response? They called Him ‘Lord,’ but they did not do the will of God.

Jesus told a story of two individuals who each built a house. When storms arose one house stood and the other fell. The reason was that one was built on sand and the other on rock. Jesus made His point clear: everyone ‘who hears these words and does not act upon them’ is like the builder who built his house on the sand. Jesus said that people should hear His teaching and then *act on them*.

Jesus came into a religious world. Israel was overseen by spiritual leaders who made and enforced many man-made rules and traditions on the people. Religion was far removed from what God intended. It had reached the point where the traditions of men actually contradicted clear commands from God (Matthew 15:3-9)!

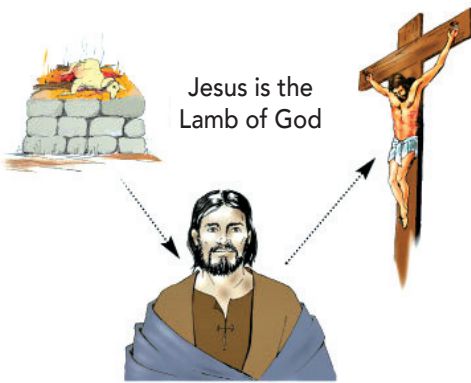
Jesus came to call Israel back to true religion. He told those whom He sent out that if people listened to them it was the same as hearing Him. However, if people rejected them, they were rejecting God who sent Him (Luke 10:16).

REASON #4 - Jesus came to earth to reveal religion as God would have it! He came to bring eternal life to all people through His sacrifice for sin. True religion today is seen in those who follow Jesus and His teachings as opposed to those who do not. Jesus said, “If you hold to My teaching you are really My disciples; and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free” (John 8:31-32).

To Pay the Price for Our Sins

In the part of the Bible called the Old Testament there is a very dramatic story found in Genesis 22. As the drama unfolds, God asked Abraham to take his only son Isaac and to sacrifice him as a burnt offering. When Abraham and Isaac got to the mountain, the boy asked his father, “Where is the lamb?” God had required a sacrifice from the beginning - a blood sacrifice. We can be thankful that God provided a lamb to take the place of Isaac.

As the years passed, God sent a preacher by the name of John the Baptist who began to introduce Jesus to the world. John describes Jesus in this way in John 1:29: “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”



The apostle Peter said this about Jesus in I Peter 2:24: “He himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.”

The Bible says all who sin must die (see Romans 3:23; 5:12; 6:23). Because God is our Creator and is holy and just we deserve to be punished for our sins, but God provided a Lamb for us.

The very last book of the Bible describes Jesus as the Lamb of God. There is a dramatic scene in Revelation chapter 5 where the apostle John is able to look into heaven. God is on His throne and holds an unopened scroll with seven seals. A mighty angel loudly proclaims: “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” But no one in heaven or on earth could open the scroll. John wept because no one was able to open the scroll. Then one of the elders said: “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seals.” Then John saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne. It was none other than Jesus Christ Himself!

Jesus is called a lion once in the book of Revelation, but He is called a lamb 27 times. **REASON #5** - Jesus came to earth to pay the price for our sins!

— Jim Crisp
Church of Christ, Waterbury, Connecticut

To Assure Us of Life Beyond



Have you experienced the death of someone you love? Did you wonder: “Where is my loved one?” “Do we live only in this life?” “Is there life beyond the grave?” Job of the Old Testament posed this question: “If a man dies will he live again?” (Job 14:14). Most people throughout the annals of

time have believed that something exists beyond the present. According to recent research, most Americans believe in life beyond.

The good news is that we can be assured that life exists beyond the present. Jesus spoke of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob saying that “God is not the God of the dead but of the living” (Matthew 22:32). In Genesis 5:24 we are told about the life of Enoch, who lived 365 years and walked with God, but was no more because God took him. Enoch did not die; God took him away. Later, Elijah the prophet was taken up in a chariot of fire (2 Kings 2:10-11). Where did Enoch and Elijah go? They went into heaven itself. What does this mean to us? It means there is life beyond the grave!

When our earthly body dies, our spirit separates from it. Where does our spirit go? Into the Hadean world -- the place of disembodied spirits. Consider what Jesus said in Luke 16:19-31. He spoke of a certain unnamed rich man and a poor beggar, Lazarus. Both died. Both went to Hades. Both could remember, both were alive in their disembodied spirits. The Bible says that the rich man was in torment, while Lazarus was comforted with Abraham in Paradise. After death, those who are ready to meet God live in Paradise (Luke 23:43), while those who are not prepared to meet Him go to a place of torment.

At the second coming of Jesus, death and Hades will be destroyed (Revelation 20:14). Our body and our spirit will be reunited and changed. Those who have served the Lord faithfully will rise to meet the Lord in the air and be forever with the Lord. **REASON #6** - Jesus came to assure us there is life beyond the here and now!

— Richard Boyd
Westchester County Church of Christ, White Plains, New York

Why Did My Savior Come To Earth?

Why did my Savior come to earth
And to the humble go?
Why did He choose a lowly birth?
Because He loved me so!

Why did He drink the bitter cup
Of sorrow, pain and woe?
Why on the cross be lifted up?
Because He loved me so!

— J.G. Dailey

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