

JESUS CHRIST CAME WITH A PURPOSE

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- Do you have any short, memorized sayings that encourage you or help you remember an important truth? What are they and what meaning do they hold for you?
- What do you think of when you hear the word “sinner”?

What traditions or sayings help you remember what Christmas is all about? “Jesus is the reason for the season” is a catchy one that pops up each year as Christians long to remind each other that, while Christmas trees, presents, and family activities are fun, they aren’t the central reason we celebrate. Such sayings are good reminders and they help us focus on important truths. When the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, he affirmed the truth of a saying believers in Ephesus would have recognized: “Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” Together, let’s study Paul’s words to Timothy to deepen our understanding of why the incarnation matters and marvel at the great love that really gives profound meaning to our Advent and Christmas celebrations.

Listen: [*Jesus Christ Came with a Purpose*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- In segment 1, hosts Dave Bast and Scott Hoezee discuss how Paul’s letters show his concern for passing on the faith and continuing leadership in the church when he’s no longer around. Think about your family and church’s Christmas traditions. Which are your favorite? Which traditions do you think pass on the gospel message and Christian faith best?
- Jesus Christ forgave Paul and found him trustworthy, despite his earlier sins. Does Paul’s example give you hope for someone in your life? Can you identify with Paul?
- Why is it so important for us to remember that Christ *chose* to take on human flesh, that he was *willing* to become one of us, that it was a *voluntary decision* to come down from heaven and save sinners?
- How does focusing on both Jesus Christ’s mission—to save sinners—and his willingness to come into the world help you recognize the “incredible story of love and grace” we celebrate at Christmas?

Related Passages

- **John 6:38-71**
- **Colossians 1:15-23**
- **Philippians 3:1-11**
- **Romans 5:1-11**

Conclusion

Find a hymnal or do an internet search for the lyrics of some of your favorite Christmas songs. As you read the words, consider: what makes the song so meaningful to you? Why is it one of your favorites? Observe whether or not the songs tie the telling and celebrating of Jesus Christ's birth that first Christmas to his purpose "to save sinners"? Evaluate how well each song contributes to our ability to pass on the gospel message like Paul affirmed the early church's short saying did.

Find an opportunity to share your faith and this important message of hope with someone else by discussing your favorite Advent or Christmas songs.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/jesus-christ-came-with-a-purpose>

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