

Christ Came to Save Sinners

Think about the news stories you saw or read in the past 24 hours and it's pretty easy to conclude humanity is corrupt and the world is doomed, completely hopeless. You may even have wondered if a particular sin was so heinous and awful that it was beyond salvation. Is it possible to sin more than Christ can redeem? In mentoring the young pastor Timothy, the Apostle Paul addresses this question by affirming a basic gospel teaching meant to give hope to sinners, encourage believers, and clearly identify the truth about Christ's salvation: Christ came to save sinners.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- When was the last time you intentionally memorized scripture? What was the passage? Can you still recall it from memory?
- If you had to explain the Christian faith to someone in one sentence, what would you say?
- How would you define the worst of sinners?
- How do you determine if words can be trusted?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Christ Came to Save Sinners](#)

READ [1 Timothy 1:12-17](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In segment 2, host Dave Bast says that Paul's claim to be "the worst of sinners" is due to the fact that Paul's sin was spiritual and directly against Jesus Christ himself. What do you think of Dave's assessment?
- Why do you think we as humans struggle to accept that Christ saves individuals we consider to be the worst sinners?
- Think about all those times and situations in which you've thought "What is this world coming to?" In light of the brokenness and evil you see in the world around you, how are you encouraged by the faithful saying "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."
- Are there situations in which you find it difficult to talk about sin and sinners? What makes it difficult? How do we balance truth with forgiveness and compassion? Can you think of examples from scripture where Jesus modeled this balance?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Romans 1:16-17](#), [Romans 3:21-26](#), [2 Corinthians 5:16-21](#)

CONCLUSION

Is there someone - or maybe a group of people - you think cannot be saved, someone who is so far into sin or seems so uninterested in God that you have a difficult time imagining God would save them? As you offer prayers of thanksgiving for Jesus Christ and God's gift of salvation in your own life, challenge yourself to regularly pray for the salvation of this person, or group of people, and for God to remove any judgment in your heart toward them.

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