

Jesus Christ Came with a Purpose

What is Christmas all about? Some might say, family. Christians hopefully say the birth of Jesus. But is that all? Is that the whole reason we celebrate? The Apostle Paul would urge us to celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ, but he would also want us to remember *why* Jesus came. As Paul tells Timothy “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.

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

- 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”?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Jesus Christ Came with a Purpose](#)

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

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- 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 for further study

[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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