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Why Jesus Came

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WHY JESUS CAME

Dr. Louis T. Talbot

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When men's thoughts turn to the coming into the world of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is well for those who know and love Him to recall clearly just why our Saviour came to earth.

"No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him" (John 1:18). In Old Testament days, men knew something of God. The psalmist speaks of the heavens declaring the glory of God and of the firmament showing His handiwork. But there is more to be known of God than can be grasped through this revelation in nature. And Jesus, as He walked among men, brought that fuller understanding. He said, in effect: "I am God uncovered; I am God unveiled." If one would know who God is, and understand something of His nature and work, he must study the four gospels, for therein is Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, revealed as Immanuel, "God with us."

In the days of His flesh, Jesus could point to Himself and say, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." If we want to know what God is like all that we have to do is to study the words, works, and ways of His Son.

Let this truth, then, be uppermost in our minds at the Christmas season, namely, that Christ came as the culmination of the revelation of the Father. The very word, incarnation, means to embody in flesh. Christ, then by His birth, became God manifest in the flesh. And it will not be forgotten that Jesus not only revealed and reflected God—He was God.

He came to do a work of atonement by means of which men alienated from God because of their sins might live forever in His holy presence. To make possible this blessed relationship Christ, the Sinless One, came into the world to die. He could say, as no man could ever say, "I lay down my life . . . No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself" (John 10:17, 18). Nevertheless, "The wages of sin is death," and those wages must be paid. Justice must be satisfied. Penalties must be met. No mortal man could meet the requirements of divine law, but the Lord Jesus Christ, God incarnate, became the sinner's Substitute, and on the cross of Calvary the sin of the world was rolled upon Him. Since that day, God's message to sinners has been to believe on Jesus, who died for their justification.

Strange though it may seem, Jesus was born to die. He clothed Himself with our humanity that He might take upon Himself the load and curse of our sin. Let it not be forgotten that He was born a Saviour, and that Mary herself recognized the stupendous truth when she sang "My spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour." Luke 1:47.

Our Lord's incarnation, crucifixion and resurrection form a triad of truth upon which our minds never tire of meditating. Christ made possible our salvation and by His resurrection, He guaranteed it.

This may be your last Christmas. Who knows? Are you ready? If not, then why not fill the heart of Jesus with joy by surrendering yourself unreservedly to Him? Give Him a happy Christmas! Give Him yourself! Dr. Louis T. Talbot.