

December 7, 2014

FOCUSING ON JESUS
Focusing On What Jesus Came To Do
Matthew 1:18-25

The celebration of Christmas is all about Jesus. During this time of rejoicing in the birth of our Savior we want to intentionally bring our focus on Jesus. The words from **Matthew 1:21** remind us of the reason Jesus came to earth:

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.”

As we look at the Bible passages telling the Christmas story, let’s allow Jesus to help us understand what it means that He came to be Savior of the world.

1. **Jesus came to pay the debt of our sin.**

“... so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.” **John 3:14-17 (NIV)**

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.”
Hebrews 2:9 (NIV)

“He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.” **1 John 2:2 (NIV)**

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” **1 John 4:10 (NIV)**

“He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.” **1 John 3:8 (NIV)**

Atonement

2. **Jesus came to make us right with God.**

“This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

Romans 3:22-24 (NIV)

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...” **Romans 5:1**

“For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.”
2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)

Justification

3. **Jesus came to bring us new life.**

“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.” **John 20:31 (NIV)**

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” **2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)**

Regeneration

4. Jesus came to bring us into His family.

“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God-- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.” **John 1:12-13 (NIV)**

“His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave Him great pleasure.” **Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)**

Adoption

5. Jesus came to make us holy.

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” **John 10:10 (NIV)**

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.” **Romans 12:1 (NIV)**

“Long ago, even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes.” **Ephesians 1:4 (NLT)**

“But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God—who chose you to be His children—is holy. For He Himself has said, ‘You must be holy because I am holy.’” **1 Peter 1:15-16 (NLT)**

“Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.” **Hebrews 12:14 (NIV)**

“Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until that day when our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. God, who calls you, is faithful; He will do this.” **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (NLT)**

“May God Himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and He will do it.” **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (NIV)**

Sanctification

“Jesus, thank You for being SAVIOR and all that it means !”