

"Jesus Blesses Us"

The Scriptures reveal several reasons why Jesus came into this world, and each of those reasons describes a blessing for mankind. Hello, I'm Phil Sanders and this is In Search of the Lord's Way. The Lord's coming into the world touches each of our lives and opens up a wonderful way for us to know God.

Welcome to In Search of the Lord's Way. The Bible teaches us the truth that we need to know, the truth that we must know. And that's why we keep studying this marvelous book. We work to bring interested people to the Lord Jesus and to His Word, the Bible. God's Word has all the answers for our spiritual lives. It teaches us where we came from, why we're here, and where we're going after we die. The Bible is God's marvelous resource for us. It gives us all the information that we need to know for life and godliness. It brings us to Jesus and teaches us how to live so that we might please Him. Thanks for spending this half-hour with us. We love to hear that you're watching or listening. We want to be a part of your life each week. Being with you each week is such a blessing.

Of all our blessings, nothing could be more important than having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Someday this earth and all it possesses will be burned up and destroyed. What will matter on that day is your spiritual relationship with God, the God who loves you and gave His Son Jesus to die for your sins. Jesus Christ is the perfect example of love, of righteousness, of service, and of obedience. Because of Jesus, we can know the truth, and the truth can set us free (John 8 and verse 32). Because of Jesus, we have hope and peace and a future.

We need Jesus Christ in this generation as much as any generation could. And I cringe when I think of people mocking Jesus or ignoring Him. How foolish to turn down an opportunity to know and follow the Son of God! Jesus came into this world to bless us, you and me. And I don't want you to miss out, and I don't want to miss out. I want you to have every blessing in Christ.

Now we offer free printed copies, or CDs of our stud, to those who ask. So just mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to searchtv@searchtv.org. Or you can call our toll-free telephone number: 1-800-321-8633. We also stream this program on our website www.searchtv.org.

Larry Owsley will lead the Edmond church in song, we'll read from John 1:9 to 13, and then we'll consider how Jesus blesses us.

Our reading today comes from the gospel according to John, chapter 1, verses 9 thru 13. "There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." That's a great reading from the gospel according to John. Let's pray together. Father we're thankful that You gave us the opportunity to be born again because of Jesus and because of His coming into the world. Father help us to know Him and to love Him. And may Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus name, Amen!

I'm deeply grateful the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world. Our lives would be immeasurably poorer if Jesus had not come. We can know so many things that we wouldn't have known because

Jesus came. We can have a close, loving relationship with the Father because of Jesus. We have a living hope beyond this grave because of Jesus. We have a home in heaven forever and ever because of Jesus. Today we'll explore five reasons why Jesus came into the world. And these are not the only reasons but they are vitally important to our spiritual well-being.

First, Jesus came into the world so that we might know God. The Bible says in John 1 verses 17 to 18, "For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him." Now Jesus said in John 14 verses 6 to 7, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; and no one comes to the Father but through Me. Now if you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him."

Second, Jesus came into the world so that we might know God's will for our lives. John 3 verses 1 and 2 says: "Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; and this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, 'Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs (that is miracles) that You do unless God is with him.'" Now Jesus was first and foremost a teacher; He wanted people not only to know God but to know the will of God. And so Jesus held this teaching to be essential to us. In John 6 and verse 63, it says "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life."

Now we must know and obey the words of the Lord. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 7 verses 21 to 23, that "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 'And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"

You cannot say no to the teaching of the Lord without saying no to the Lord Himself. Jesus wanted us to know His teaching, because it will be the basis for our judgment on the Last Day. Now Jesus took special care to deliver the teaching accurately and faithfully. The Lord said in John 12 verses 48 to 50, that "He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day. For I did not speak (Jesus says) on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me."

Now when the Bible teaches something, you can be sure it's what the Lord Jesus wants us to know. Don't trust your feelings, or your assumptions, or the teachings of men, or anything but what you can read in your New Testament. The only way that you can know the will of the Father for sure is by looking at the words of Jesus Christ.

Third, Jesus came into the world so that we might have a relationship with God. The Bible says in John 1 verses 11 to 13, that "He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." Now God wants everybody to come to Him and to be His child, but not everyone wants to do His will.

Now God will forgive anyone's sin who will believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, repent of sin, and be baptized. I tell you, the gospel is for all, Jew and Gentile, male and female, slave or free. Anyone who loves the Lord and is willing to obey Him can be saved and become a child of God. The apostle Peter said to the Roman Gentile Cornelius in Acts chapter 10 verses 34 and 35, "I most certainly

understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.”

Now people who claim to be close to the Lord but are unwilling to do the will of God, well they fool themselves. You can't continue to live in rebellion to the will of God and then expect to have a positive relationship with the Lord. The Lord wants to draw close to you; but if you reject His will, you're rejecting Him, and His blessing.

Fourth, Jesus came into the world so that we might be saved. In Matthew 1 and verse 21, an angel of the Lord told Joseph this about Mary: “that she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” In John 1 and verse 29, John the Baptist pointed to Jesus and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”

John 3 and verse 16 says, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Now this passage has so much to say about God's love for us. That the Father loved us enough to sacrifice His Son Jesus on the cross so that we might have forgiveness of sins and become children of God, to me is amazing. God gave up His Son to a crucifixion, the worst and most shameful death that a man could endure. He did it because He truly loved us and truly hated what sin has done and would do to us. He gave Jesus as the only way to atone for our sins.

In Luke 19, the New Testament tells the story of Zacchaeus, you remember that chief tax collector, the wee little man who followed Jesus. When the people grumbled that Jesus had gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner, you remember Jesus said in Luke 19 verses 9 to 10, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” The Lord Jesus has graced the lives of so many sinners, people who thought they would forever be enslaved to a life for which they are ashamed. The Lord gives us hope that we can change and be freed from the guilt and the hold of sin over our lives.

On another occasion when Jesus was eating with tax-collectors and sinners, you remember the Pharisees asked His disciples, “Well why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?” But Jesus heard this, He said, ‘Well it's not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. But you go and learn what this means: ‘that I desire compassion, and not sacrifice,’ for I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners” (Matthew chapter 9 verses 11 to 13).

Now Jesus went where the need was greatest, to those who needed Him most. He wasn't like the Pharisees who thought they were better than others; He wanted to heal the spiritual diseases of people. He knew everyone had a soul, and so He didn't pick and choose which people He liked and ignore the rest. He loved everybody and suffered on the cross for every person.

Many believe the Lord predestined or arbitrarily chose which people He would save and which would be lost. And because of this false teaching, and it is false teaching, some believe that they can't ever be right with the Lord, no matter what. Well I tell you, nothing could be farther from the truth. Jesus loves everybody and He died for the sins of every person.

Titus 2 and verse 11 says that “the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men (all people).” And those who say Jesus shed His blood only for the elect or the saved contradict the Word of God. The inspired apostle John wrote to the elect in the church in 1 John 2 and verse 2 that Jesus “is the propitiation for our sins, and not for our sins only but also for the sins of the whole world.” The Lord's heart is not small; He has a place in His heart for you, my friend.

The apostle Paul, who described himself as the chief of sinners, realized that God's grace was greater than his sins. He said in 1 Timothy 1 verses 15 and 16, “It is a trustworthy statement, deserving

full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. And yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

Jesus came to this earth to die. He was born with a body, a body destined to sacrifice for the sins of the world. In Hebrews 10 verses 4 to 7 says: For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'"

Jesus Christ gladly suffered and sacrificed His life so that we might live with Him for eternity. The Lord said in John 10 verses 17 to 18, "For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father." I tell you Jesus Christ gave His body and His life as an act of great, personal love for you and for me.

Fifth, Jesus came into the world to give us an abundant life. The Lord Jesus said in John 10 and verse 10, that "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." This promise of God has proven true on so many levels. The Lord Jesus has given us an abundant life here and will provide for us a home in heaven. Ephesians 1 and verse 3 reminds us that God "has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ." Oh God hears our prayers; God grants us forgiveness and peace; God gives us living hope through the resurrection of Jesus; and God gives us His Word, this Bible to instruct and guide us, and to encourage us each day.

Jesus blesses us so richly that I cannot imagine even one day apart from the Lord. Spiritual death takes place when a person sins against God. The word "death" describes a separation. Physical death according to James 2 and verse 26 is the separation of the physical body from the spirit. Spiritual death takes place when we sin against God and separate ourselves from God. Now Jesus died to reconcile us, to bring us back together with God. And the blood of Jesus atones for our sins and allows us to come back into the grace and favor of God our Father. His blood opens the door for us to live as children of God and to have hope in the hereafter. My friend don't let a single day, not a single hour, pass without the blessing of Jesus Christ in Your life. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father, we're thankful for Jesus, that He came in to this world, that He suffered and died for us, and blessed us with so many good things. Father help us to love You and to love Him. And may Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus name we pray, Amen!

When I think about Jesus Christ coming into this world I recall the time that my wife Jackie and I visited Israel. We saw much of the nation. And we especially liked our trip to the northern town of Baniyas, what the Bible calls Caesarea Philippi. The New Testament records a heart-searching question in Matthew 16 verses 13 to 15, a question that we must also ask ourselves. The Bible says: "Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' And He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'"

Well who is Jesus to you? And how do you regard Him? That may be the most important question you ever answer. Some today say that He was only a man; others say that He was only a prophet; and still others say that He was a great moral teacher. Peter answered Jesus by saying, "You are the Christ

(the Messiah), the Son of the living God.” Can you say that too? Is He your Lord? Do you say that He is the Christ, the Son of the living God? If we obey the Lord and commit our lives to Him, we can enjoy His blessings. If we turn Him down, we’ll lose the blessing that He came to give.

You can commit your life to Him by loving Him with all your heart, placing your faith in Him as the Christ, turning away from all sin and then committing yourself to live as He wills, and by being baptized into Christ. Now baptism is the immersion in water of a repentant believer. When you’re baptized, God washes away your sins (Acts 22:16), He gives you newness of life (Romans 6 and verse 4). And my friend, today is the best day for you to commit your life to God.

Well we hope you’ve been blessed by today’s study of God’s Word. If you want a free printed copy or a CD of this message, then mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to searchtv@searchtv.org.

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We do ask that you please attend worship with one of the churches of Christ in your area. These churches love guests, and you’ll be glad you visited. Well, we’ll be back next week, Lord willing. So we ask that you keep searching God’s Word with us and tell a friend about the program. God bless you and we love you from all of us at In Search of the Lord’s Way.