

Series Title: Christmas: Beloved Myth or Life Changing Truth?

Sermon Title: Week 4: His Name Is Jesus

Date: 12-29-19

† The Lord Saves Saves

- **This season we have looked at details of the Christmas story, but one more significant detail remains.. WHAT IS SIGNIF ABOUT name the angel told Joseph to give to his son, the name JESUS**

Matthew 1:20-21 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ **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.**”

- **In short, the name JESUS comes from the Hebrew YESHUA- MEANING-“The Lord (Yaweh) saves”, or “The Lord is salvation”**
- **SO, that means all the neon signs “Jesus Saves” literally means “The lord saves saves”**
- **Jesus was given this name because this is exactly what he was going to do... as the LORD, he came to save his people from their SIN.**
- **What does that mean? HUGE TOPIC. If we ask the question, “What does it mean that Jesus saves”, the answer almost always given will be “forgiveness”.**
- **“We sin, we need to be forgiven, Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our sin, so that God can forgive us, thus he saves us from our sin”. THIS IS TRUE, but BIG OVERSIMPLIFICATION.**
- **Like describing birth to a child- “Mom and dad love each other, baby grows inside mommy, and then the baby is born”. ALL TRUE, but misses incredible, miraculous, profound journey of bringing a child into the world!**

POINT- When we think of Everything God accomplished through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ – can be summed up in the concept of ATONEMENT

Romans 3:21-25a But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented Christ as a sacrifice of **atonement**, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.

- **ATONEMENT. The word ATONE means to ‘make amends’, but what God accomplished in Christ is so much more than that. This is a huge topic, right now, I want to shine a light, briefly, on the majesty of the fullness of the angels words, that through JESUS, we may be saved.**
- **Lets start at the most basic level....**

† In Christ, why God did what He did

- **WHY did God send His son- to the world for humanity? For the humanity that had rejected him?**
- **FIRST THOUGHT: If you search all of scripture, the resounding reason God did what He did, is because He LOVES US. Because He loves you.**

1 John 4:9-10 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

- **HEAR. Take all the doctrinal theories of why Christ had to die on the cross, and if you strip that all away, the only answer that remains is that Christ came, endured the cross, because of the Fathers love. The fullness of everything accomplished through the cross is the fullness of the Fathers love for us. For you. If you/we, tell ourselves that God doesn’t love**

us, then the message of the New Testament has no foundation. The story of salvation started, is sustained, and will come to its fullness in eternity, because of the fathers love.

– **NOW, lets look closer at what that love entailed....**

✠ In the atonement, we see the foundation of Christ's OBEDIENCE

– **SECOND THOUGHT: Christ surrendered to the cross because of his obedience to the father.**

Philippians 2:7-8 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Romans 5:19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

- **KEY: In Christ, we see how Obedience is inseparable from love. That Christ was obedient to his father means that Jesus CHOSE, out of his human will, to surrender to the Cross. AND, Jesus obedience was motivated by his LOVE OF THE FATHER, and HIS LOVE OF US.**
- **AND AS IMPOSSIBLE as it sounds, when you couple obedience with love, the result of that obedience is JOY. “Who for the joy set before him... “**
- **HERE, we see the obedience of Christ as the provision for our obedience- when we obey God, motivated by love of God, the result is joy.**

✠ In the atonement, we see Christ as the ultimate SACRIFICE

Hebrews 10:11-18 Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. ¹⁴ For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

¹⁵ The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:

¹⁶ “This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds. ¹⁷ Then he adds: “**Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.**”

¹⁸ **And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.**

- **In this passage we see several key things. First, that Christ's sacrifice is to be understood in light of the OT system of sacrifice. AND IN THE OT, under the Mosaic law, the purpose of the sacrifice was the removal of GUILT that rises from sin. REMEMBER THAT: Sacrifice of blood was for delivery from guilt.**
- **SECOND thing here, is the seriousness of our sin. This is uncomfortable, and it should be. We cannot minimize, trivialize, or rationalize away the devastation and the consequences of sin. Scriptures proclaims this, and human history bears it out. CHRIST endured the cross not out of a rote divine plan, but in response to our SIN. ANY THOUGHT, argument, philosophy that tries to minimize the magnitude of human sin also minimizes the cost of Love Christ paid to deliver us from the guilt of sin.**
- **THIRD, the writer of Hebrews proclaims that Christ's sacrifice for sin was sufficient to cover all our sin. You can't pay for your sin through carrying guilt, and moreover, you don't have to. Christ's sacrifice paid it all. VERSE 17...**
- **NEXT... big, old word...**

✠ In the atonement, we see the miracle of Christ as a PROPITIATION

1 John 4:10 (ESV) *In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

- **The NIV translates ‘pro’ as ‘atoning sacrifice’. This doesn’t fully capture the meaning of the word. ‘Propitiation’, in a broad sense, means more than removal of guilt. It means removal of WRATH.**
- **AGAIN, this is uncomfortable concept, but we must understand. The FUNDAMENTAL attribute of God is LOVE, and because this is true, GOD’S RESPONSE to SIN is WRATH. CONSUMING! WHY? Because sin hurts us! It destroys! If God responded to sin with anything other than wrath, he couldn’t truly love us.**
- **IN THE CROSS, IN THE ATONEMENT, CHRIST SUFFERED THE WRATH OF GOD against sin. Why? BECAUSE HE LOVES US.**

Ephesians 2:3-5 *All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*

- **IN CHRIST, we aren’t just set free from the guilt of sin, we are delivered from God’s wrath against sin- because Christ bore it for us.**

† In the atonement, Christ has accomplished **RECONCILIATION**

- **Think of what we’ve covered... Because of Christ’s obedience, which was expression of love...**
 - **Free from guilt. Free from wrath. NEXT**
 - **Reconciled... We are restored to RELATIONSHIP.**

Romans 5:8-11 *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

- **Must push deeper. THINK... if reconciliation is needed, then there is something separating them... something alienating them.**
- **We might first think that in response to God’s grace/cross, that WE are the ones who let go of our alienation- our rebellion- against God. And this indeed is part of God’s salvation. But the emphasis of RECONCILIATION as we see it here is that IN CHRIST, through the cross, GOD set aside his alienation against us.**
- **We say “I accept Christ”- reality is that In Christ, God has accepted us.**
- **GOD DIDN’T WAIT until we turned to him to reconcile us... he did it while we were still sinners- while we were still deserving wrath. ROMANS 5:8... God demonstrates HIS LOVE... WHILE STILL SINNERS.. Christ did EVERYTHING necessary for us to be restored, FULLY to a relationship with him.**

† In the atonement, Christ has secured our **REDEMPTION**

- **Redemption is the remaining nature of the atonement. In the NT, this is picture of being RANSOMED- purchased- OUT OF BONDAGE.**
- **Idea expressed by Jesus in Matthew 20:28-**

Matthew 20:28 *just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

- **SO MUCH, but simply... we haven’t just be delivered from guilt of sin, from God’s wrath against sin... WE HAVE BEEN DELIVERED FROM POWER OF SIN.**
- **THINK... we tend to think of forgiveness, from deliverance from guilt and wrath, as things we will realize in eternity. That when we die, and stand before the throne of judgment,**

(which we will), that Christ will step forward and proclaim our innocence from guilt and wrath, because he has already paid the price. THIS IS TRUE! BUT AS miraculous as that is, IT STILL ISN'T THE FULLNESS OF THE ATONEMENT.

- *THE ATONEMENT- What Christ did through his Death, Burial, and Resurrection, isn't limited to the future of eternity, it is present RIGHT NOW.*
- *IN CHRIST.. On judgement day, sin shall not be our condemnation... RIGHT NOW, sin shall not be our master. LISTEN....*

Romans 6:6-7 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

10-11 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

† God did all of this, through His Son Jesus Christ, to save His people from their SINS.

- **RESPONSE**
 - **Believe**
 - **Marvel at it**
 - **Surrender**