

Sermon Discussion Guide:

Christmas is About Sin and Salvation

Scripture: **Matthew 1:18–21**

Series: **Advent**

Sunday, December 1, 2019

OVERVIEW

Christians can easily get caught up in the worldly traditions and nostalgia of Christmas and forget to see beyond the commercialization. As believers, we need to look beyond these to see the true meaning of Christmas—not just the pretty side—but the bitter reality of our sin and the great intervention of our God.

Christmas is only understood through the bitterness of sin and the sweetness of salvation.

CORROBORATING TEXTS

1 John 3:4; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:3; 1 Peter 1:18-21; Colossians 2:13-14; Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:9; Hebrews 9:14; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 2 Corinthians 3:18

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your fondest Christmas memory? What is the predominant cultural understanding of Christmas? How do you tend to get wrapped up in cultural Christmas?
2. How can Matthew describe Joseph as “just?” How was Joseph’s plan to divorce Mary quietly an act of mercy and kindness?
3. Pastor Joe described sin as “breaking God’s Law.” How has your view of sin been challenged this week?
4. When we break God’s Law, we are 1.) telling God no; 2.) confessing ourselves as lord; 3.) denying that God is owed his worth and our obedience. Of these three, which best describes you? In what ways do you see these manifest daily in your life?
5. What is the bitter reality of sin? [*corrupts the whole person; makes us enemies of God; makes us objects of wrath*] How does knowing the bitter reality of our sin—the price Jesus paid for our salvation—help us to appreciate the sweetness of our salvation? [*the debt of sin is paid; the soul is cleansed; sanctification*]
6. Those that have tasted the sweetness of salvation do the following: 1.) confess sin; 2.) trust Christ; 3.) praise God; and 4.) tell others. Which of these come most naturally to you? Which do you tend to struggle with?