



Sunday, December 6, 2020  
Pastor Doug Phillips

## **Intro to Three Reasons He Came**

In an increasingly secular culture, it is important that we promote ideas that will contribute to human flourishing—one of those ideas is that we must put “Christ” back in “Christmas.” It is important that we resist the ever-present pull towards materialism and meaningless therapeutic messages that are aimed at making us feel good without any substance. Instead, we must remember—at Christmas, of all times—that Christ is the reason for the season.

Yet, even more important than that, we must keep “Christ” in our “Christianity.” Too often, our Christianity can also become simply therapeutic (where the goal is making us feel better about ourselves) or moralistic (where the goal is that we simply behave better or become better people). Instead, we must remember that Christianity is about a person. Christianity is about the person from whom and for whom all things exist. It is about Jesus, our Savior-King, who is worthy of all glory and honor, and yet humbled Himself to the point of going to the cross to pay for our sins, to destroy the works of the devil, and to reveal to us the true character of the one true God.

So, as we continue in this season of advent, it is important that we remember that His coming was not intended to make us feel better about ourselves (though it does relieve our greatest burdens). It was not to make us better people (though by His Spirit we can be born again and begin to live like Him). Rather, He came to save us. He came to save us from our sins, from our bondage to Satan and his influence, and from our ignorance. As we were once “in sin and error pining,” then when “He appeared,” with Him came “a new and glorious morn” in which the curse would be reversed, and we could be transferred from death to life by faith in Him alone.

May the glory of Jesus and His saving work dominate our thinking this Christmas season!

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read 1 John 3:5; 3:8; 5:20

“Three Reasons Why He Came”

I. He came to take away our sins (1 John 3:5)

II. He came to destroy the devil’s works (1 John 3:8)

III. He came so we would know the one true God (1 John 5:20)

## Discuss

- 1) What are some ways it seems that the world is “winning” right now?
- 2) How certain are you that your sins are forgiven? What, if anything, causes you to waver in that certainty?
- 3) How should we handle Satan’s accusations against us? What are some key passages we might refer to?
- 4) Why is it important that Christ not only forgives our sins but also conquers our enemies?
- 5) What effect of the fall are you most looking forward to being rid of?