

## Why Jesus Came.

One of the most common candies of Christmastime is the candy cane. It is ancient in meaning and symbolism.

ITS SHAPE IS THE CROOK OF THE SHEPHERD

ONE OF THE FIRST WHO CAME;

THE LIVELY PEPPERMINT FLAVOR IS THE REGAL GIFT OF SPICE.

THE WHITE IS JESUS' PURITY, THE RED HIS SACRIFICE;

THE NARROW STRIPES ARE FRIENDSHIP AND THE NEARNESS OF HIS LOVE

ETERNAL SWEET COMPASSION, A GIFT FROM GOD ABOVE;

THE CANDY CANE REMINDS US ALL OF JUST HOW MUCH GOD CARED

AND LIKE HIS CHRISTMAS GIFT TO US, IT'S MEAN TO BE BROKEN AND SHARED.

Why did Jesus come at Christmastime?

### **Gal. 4:4-7**

But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no long a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

### **I. The Providence of Christ's Coming.**

...when the fullness of time came, God sent forth His Son...

Paul was writing to a group of people who were being deceived into believing that salvation was by faith in Christ and by keeping the Law. One of the many points Paul made was that the Law kept people in slavery until Christ freed them.

"Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. So also we, while we were children were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. But when the fullness of time came, God sent forth His Son..."

(Gal. 4:1-3)

Paul used an illustration of an heir who was too young to receive his inheritance and was no better off than a slave. Then he included himself among the Israelites who were kept in slavery by the Law until Christ came at the right time to set them free.

John Newton, author of the beloved hymn, "Amazing Grace," wrote his own testimony in that song. In his commentary *The Message of Galatians*, John Stott tells of Newton's wonderful account.

"Newton was an only child and lost his mother when he was seven. At the age of eleven he went to sea as a sailor and became involved in the inhuman African slave trade. Soon hardened by his evil surroundings, he outdid his companions in immorality, vulgarity, and blasphemy. But when he was twenty-three his ship was caught in a severe storm, and when he began to fear for his life he cried out to God for mercy and was marvelously saved. Not wanting ever to forget the depths of sin from which he had been rescued by God's grace, Newton later inscribed the words of Deuteronomy 15:15 above his mantel. "And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt and the Lord thy God redeemed thee."

To be *under the Law* is to try to obey the Law you cannot keep. That which cannot save, but only convicts, condemns, and enslaves.

"...by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin." (Rom. 3:20)

MacArthur writes,

"When the law had fully accomplished its purpose of showing man his utter sinfulness and inability to live up to God's perfect standard of righteousness, God ushered in a new era of redemption. When He

sent forth His Son, He provided the righteousness for man that man could not provide for himself.”<sup>1</sup>

To the Romans Paul wrote,

“For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did, sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us”

(Rom. 8:3-4).

Paul’s message was that through Christ men received righteousness apart from any works of the Law.

## **II. The Purpose of Christ’s Coming:**

God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law

The angel told Joseph that Mary was going to have a baby,

“And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.” (Matt. 1:21)

‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which translated means, ‘God with us.’

(Matt. 1:23)

*Jesus* [from Joshua] means “God is salvation”

Jesus would be God in human flesh, who would save His people.

**JESUS PURPOSE IN COMING WAS TO ACCOMPLISH SALVATION.**

...Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Phil. 2:5-8)

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<sup>1</sup> John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Galatians*, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1987), p. 107.

On the cross Jesus sacrificed Himself as a sin offering.

“...we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all ... but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time ... for by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.” (Heb. 10:10,12,14).

❖ **Christ came to redeem those who were slaves.**

God sent forth His Son ... in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

*Redemption* – Gk. -exagorazo, which literally means to buy out or buy back and was used of slaves whose freedom was purchased. Through payment of the required price, slaves were redeemed and became free men, and, more than that, they received adoption as sons.

■ **Slaves were freed in order to become sons.**

*Adoption* – *huiiothesia* – from *huios* (son), and *thesis* (a placing);

refers to a man’s giving the status of sonship to someone who is not his natural child.

In the Roman world adoption was an honored custom that gave special dignity and family membership to those who were not born into a family. Often a wealthy or childless man would adopt a young slave, who would trade his slavery for sonship, with all its concomitant privileges.<sup>2</sup>

In adoption all previous relationships are severed. The new father exercises authority over the new son, and the new son enters into the privileges and responsibilities of the natural son.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> MacArthur, p. 108-109.

<sup>3</sup> F. Lyall, “Roman Law in the Writings of Paul: Adoption,” *Journal of Biblical Literature*, (1969): 458-66.

The reason for Christ's coming was to buy us out of slavery and then adopt us into God's family as sons.

THE PROVIDENCE: GOD'S SON ENTERED INTO OUR HISTORY AT THE RIGHT TIME.

THE PURPOSE: CHRIST'S SACRIFICE PAID FOR SIN AND RESTORED US TO GOD

### III. The Product of Christ's Coming.

What was the outcome of Christ's work in our lives?

Relationship!

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no long a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God. (Gal. 4:6-7)

We have a living and eternal relationship with God through Christ.

Redemption is connected with adoption:

- To give us the gift of sonship.
- To become joint heirs with Jesus as fully adopted sons.
- Eternally related by the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

Gods Son gave up everything that was His in order to free us from slavery, so that we could become sons and joint-heirs with Christ.

Just as Christ came into the world, so He comes into our hearts.

- 14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of god these are sons of God.
- 15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"
- 16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ,

Rom. 8:14-17

There is a subjective experience with Christ through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

...The subjective ministry of the Holy Spirit that confirms the objective truth of Scripture.

*Abba! Father!* – term of endearment used by young children of their fathers and could be translated “daddy” or “papa.”

We are always welcome to full and complete access to our Father.

John Wesley was an honor graduate of Oxford University an ordained Clergyman in the Church of England and orthodox in theology. He was active in practical good works, regularly visiting the inmates of prisons and workhouses in London and helping distribute food and clothing to slum children and orphans. He studied the Bible diligently and attended numerous Sunday services as well as various other services during the week. He generously gave offerings to the church and alms to the poor. He prayed and fasted and lived an exemplary moral life. He even spent several years as a missionary to American Indians in what was then the British colony of Georgia. Yet upon returning to England he confessed in his journal, “I who went to America to convert others was never myself converted to God.” Later reflecting on his preconversion condition, he said, “I had even then the faith of a servant, though not that of a son.”

Wesley tirelessly did everything he could to live a life acceptable to God, yet he knew something vital was missing. It was not until he went “very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street” on evening that he discovered and claimed true Christian life. “I felt my heart strangely warmed,” he wrote. “I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.” Things were no longer elemental for Wesley. He had entered “the heavenlies.”

Text Summary:

Our Condition

His Coming

Our Confirmation