

WHY DID CHRIST COME?

1 John 4:9-14

Intro: When you realize that the whole of the OT anticipated the coming of Christ, and most of the NT explains why He came, this question, WHY DID CHRIST COME?, becomes the key that opens the meaning of Scripture.

And the answer to that question is not confined to one place, nor even to one Book, in either the OT or the NT.

Nor is there just one answer.

E.g., Heb. 1:1-3. This was one reason for His coming.

In 1 John we have a threefold statement of the coming of Christ which explains for us why the Lord Jesus Christ came--a reason which is known to most of us, but when we consider these statements it may throw greater light on this very important and very precious subject.

The three verses I refer to are vv. 9, 10, and 14. Let me read them, and then let us consider them one by one.

WHY DID CHRIST COME?

The first answer to this question is

I. HE CAME BECAUSE HE WAS "SENT."

"Sent" by whom? Vv. 9 and 10 say "God"; v. 14 says, "the Father."

The Lord Jesus was not in this by Himself; He was sent by God, the Father. He was on a divine mission in which each Person of the Godhead has His part.

This does not mean that He had to be forced to come, nor that there was anything unwilling in His heart about His coming, but it was looked upon by the Apostle John as a work which was instigated by God.

But there is another reason given in both vv. 9, 10.

II. HE CAME AS THE EXPRESSION OF THE FATHER'S LOVE.

If we want to know why the Lord Jesus would come, sent by God, for guilty, worthless sinners, we cannot look for the reason in the heart of man. It was to be found in the heart of God. This is the greatest wonder in all the world, and it should never cease to amaze us that it is true. Cf. also John 3:16; Rom. 5:8. What a subject!

But notice a third reason--and now I want to go to each of these verses because they all express the reason for Christ's coming in a slightly different way.

III. 1 John 4:9 -- CHRIST CAME "THAT WE MIGHT LIVE THROUGH HIM."

This tells us something very important about ourselves, and some very important things about Christ.

- A. This means that we, apart from Christ, are dead--spiritually dead, subject to physical death, and headed for eternal death.

Thus we would be unable to help ourselves, and utterly lacking in anything that would commend us to God.

- B. This means that there is no other way in which we can have eternal life.

- C. This life is a present possession, always manifested through Christ Himself.

We have life because we have Christ. If we do not have Christ, we do not have life. It is that simple and clear.

Cf. 1 John 5:11, 12.

IV. 1 John 4:10 -- CHRIST CAME "TO BE THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS."

What does "propitiation" mean? Satisfaction! Who had to be satisfied? Did we? No! But God did! No salvation is worth anything unless it can be proven that it has met all the requirements of a holy God. Our sin has been against Him, and, therefore, any way of salvation has to be suitable to Him.

Note: It was "for our sins." John believed in the salvation of all of those for whom the Lord Jesus died. How could anyone be lost if Jesus Christ satisfied God concerning their sins?

V. 1 John 4:14 -- CHRIST CAME "TO BE THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD."

Did He come to die expecting that the whole world would be saved? Would our Lord, or could our Lord, attempt something that He was not able to do? Some people would agree that the Lord is sovereign in everything else, but not in salvation. Why should this be excluded when, as we have seen, men are sinners, dead, completely without life, and

therefore unable to seek God.

You see, we get into trouble because we do not consider the complete revelation regarding man and regarding God which we find in Scripture.

What, then, does it mean that "the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world"?

It means two things:

- 1) He is the world's only Saviour. If people in any age and in any part of the world are to be saved, they can only be saved through Christ. There are not many Saviours--only ONE!
- 2) It means that He is the Saviour of both Jews and Gentiles.

This fits in with what is actually happening. Not everyone is being saved. Not everyone even wants to be saved. But, among Jews and Gentiles, all who are being saved are being saved through Christ. He is the only One.

Concl: It is important to be straight on these truths when we come to Christ because:

- 1) This is a message that we are commissioned to proclaim to all the world.
- 2) Our understanding of God and of Christ when we are saved is what gets us established in the life of fellowship with them which will follow. If we have defective ideas about God, its effect is going to be seen in our lives.

May the Lord Himself reveal to us the truth of these verses that we may grow in our understanding of them until that glorious day when we see Him face to face!