

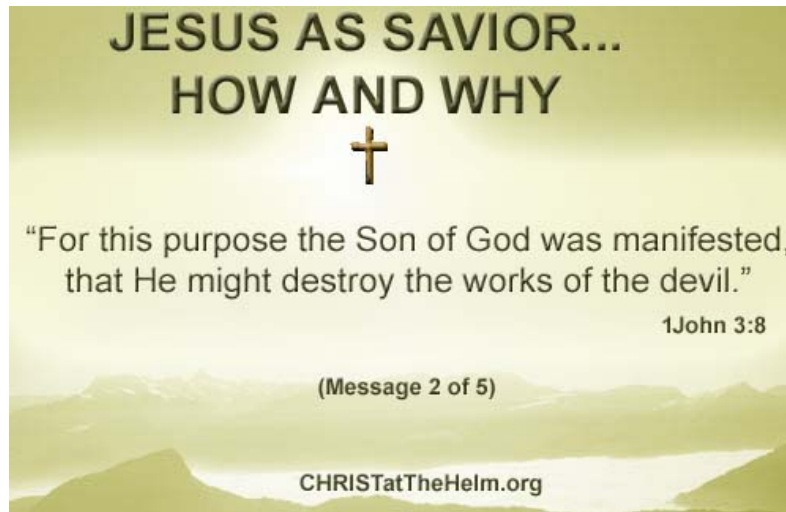
When it comes to understanding God’s purpose for humanity, many people have the false conception that because of mankind’s evil nature and attitudes, God doesn’t care about us. Some will even say that it’s a religion of rules and regulations to simply catch us into sin and so punish us as a result.

However, the bible teaches us quite the contrary as Jesus Himself said, “The Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save *them*.” (Luke 9:56) Even before Jesus’ birth, when Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant, an angel appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” (Mat 1:20-21)

It is obvious that Jesus’ purpose to come into this world was meant to save the world rather than judge us. Jesus made it clear as crystal in stating: “And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.” (John 12:47)

Why and how did Jesus accomplish that in your understanding?
More to follow!

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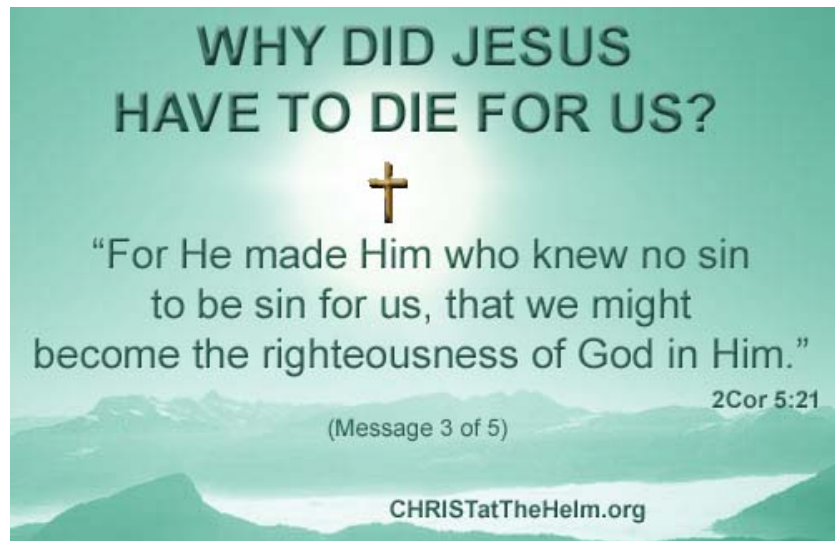
God’s purpose in sending Jesus was to save mankind. He exposed sin and evil, gave us the truth, and showed us the only path to be set free; believe in Him as Savior, repent and follow Him. Jesus also warned us about the lies and hypocrisy of the enemy.

Paul in 1Tim 2:3-4 states, “For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” Why? Psalm 53:2-3 tells us what God sees in this world: “God looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. Every one of them has turned aside; they have together become corrupt; there *is* none who does good, no, not one.”

Jesus clearly affirmed, “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” (John 6:38) The apostle John confirmed: “And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *as* Savior of the world.” (1John 4:14) Additionally, 2Peter 3:9 adds, “The Lord is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Taking this at face value, isn’t it clear that without God’s salvation through Christ, the world is lost and doomed?

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Why did Jesus have to die so we could be saved? Gen 2:16-17 describes how Adam and Eve rejected God's warning when He said, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

The result was that Adam and Eve disobeyed, were separated from God, and died spiritually. Isaiah 59:2 explains, "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden *His* face from you, so that He will not hear."

Then, why do we need a Savior to die for us? God decreed that disobedience to Him was not only a sin, but as well deserved death. God also never negotiates or changes His mind about right and wrong, as the world does. Because eternal death was the punishment for sin, and that God loves us and desires that all be saved, He sent Jesus as a substitution to die so we could all be saved by believing in Him and surrendering to Him.

That's why Gal 3:13 says, "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us." Hebrews 5:9 adds, "He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him."

Have we made that decision yet?

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We hear people say that they have accepted Jesus and claim they are saved. What did Jesus mean when He told Nicodemus that we must be born again to enter the Kingdom of God?

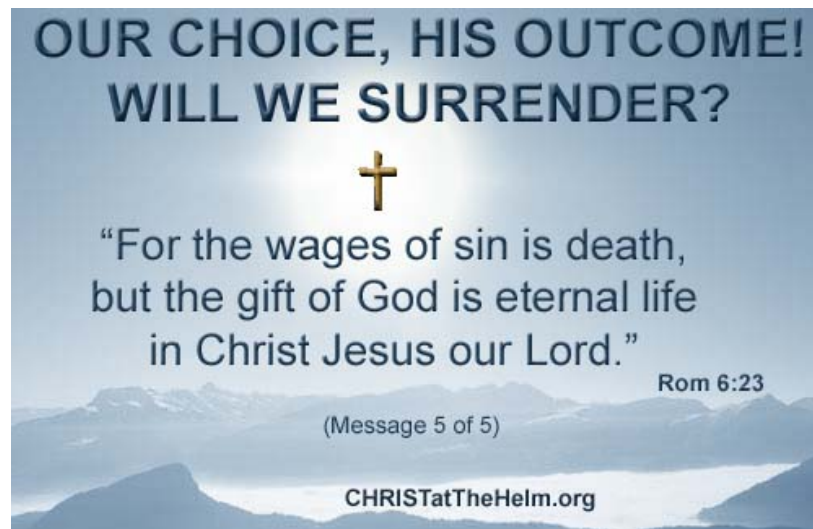
Jesus stated in John 14:23, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.” Then if we say we believe in Christ, shouldn’t our desire be to seek to know Him through His Word, and most importantly apply His Word to our lives?

John 1:12 adds: “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.” Therefore, to believe in Christ is much more than saying so. The reason Jesus said in Mat 7:21, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”

In essence, to be born again infers our spirit is reborn, our heart seeks to know our Lord intimately, and our attitude becomes to imitate our Lord. That’s why Jesus is quoted as saying in Luke 6:46, “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”

If we meditate on our life in light of God’s Word, can we say we are following our Lord’s teachings?

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Who is responsible for our eternal destiny? Who makes all decisions in this regard?

This scripture explains it all: “I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him, the Word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.” (John 12:46-48)

In other words, Christ came to take our penalty of death so we could be reconciled to God. The responsibility therefore lies with each and every one of us to make the decision, as Jesus paid the ransom for all who choose to truly believe in Him, repent and surrender their lives to follow Him.

Additionally, it doesn't matter who we are, what we did before, or how sinful we have been. In Acts 10:34, Peter added, “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.” That means all of us have the opportunity to believe and surrender to Christ. As Mark 16:16 says, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

Have we made our choice to truly believe and follow Christ?

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