

“The Ugliness of Christmas”

Matthew 1:21

INTRODUCTION

- the reason for Christ’s coming
Mt. 1:21; 1 Jn. 3:5; 4:14; 1 Tim. 1:15
- the *bad* news is a necessary prerequisite to the *good* news
- sin twists, distorts, disfigures

“Sin has turned beauty into deformity and the wicked takes more care to have his sin covered than cured.”— Thomas Watson

1. *What is sin?*

- “sin is _____”
1 Jn. 1:8; 3:4
- + God’s law written in _____
- + God’s law written on _____
Rom. 2:14-15
- sin = “any failure to conform to the moral law of God in _____, _____, or _____”
Ex. 20:13; Mt. 6:21-22; Eph. 2:3

2. *How did I come to be a sinner?*

- who is responsible for sin/evil?
 - God?
Deut. 32:4; Job. 34:10
 - eternally exist (dualism)?
 - a voluntary choice
1 Jn. 3:8; Jude 6
- I am a sinner because Adam was a sinner
Rom. 5:18-19
- an “age of accountability”?
Ps. 51:5; 58:3

3. *What does God think about sin and sinners?*

- God hates sin
Prov. 6:16-19
- God hates sinners
Lev. 26:27-30; Ps. 11:5; 5:5-6; Ezk. 8:18; 9:5-6;
Rom. 9:13

4. *Why does God love any sinner?*

Rom. 3:25; 2 Pet. 3:9