

Subject: *Christ Came to Us and for Us*
Scripture: *John 1:1-14*

This is a remarkable passage of Scripture. The Apostle John writes about God's Son coming to earth. This introduction to the life and ministry of Christ is much different than the nativity story found in Matthew and Luke. John never mentions Joseph and Mary, the shepherds, the angels, the town of Bethlehem or the manger. He begins with Christ in the eternal past, long before time began and the world was created, to tell us about the Son of God who came to earth. John uses some very simple words and statements to tell us some very profound truths about Christ.

At the center of this passage is the amazing fact that Christ came to earth so that we could receive Him by faith and become members of God's family. To put it in simple terms, John tells us that Christ came to earth so that we could go to heaven. He became a man so that we might become the children of God. I want to point out four things in the text.

1. The greatest truth

The greatest truth is what John tells us about Christ. He is the Word (vs. 1, 14). If we just stop to consider all that is said about Christ we would be willing to do anything for Him. Spurgeon said, "You may study, look, and meditate, but Jesus is a greater Savior than you think Him to be, even when your thoughts are at their highest."

Christ was in the beginning (eternity past), He was with God, and He was God. He is eternal, He is distinct from God the Father, and He is fully God. He is the creator who made all things. He is the source of all life. He is the source of all light. He was made flesh and dwelt among us. He had divine glory as the only begotten of the Father (one-of-a-kind Son). He was full of grace and truth. And He came that men might believe on Him (vs. 7). All of these are amazing truths about Christ, the Son of God, and they are fundamental truths of our Christian faith.

2. The greatest tragedy

The eternal Son of God entered time and took on human flesh. He came to the world He created and the people He loved and chose (the Jews), but they did not know (understand) who He was and they did not receive Him. Look at verses 10-11. The prophet Isaiah wrote about it 700 years before Christ came.

Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

How could that happen? They were not looking for a Messiah who was a suffering servant. They were only interested in reigning ruler. They wanted a Messiah who would be a powerful political leader and someone who would meet all their physical needs. They were not interested in a spiritual leader who told them to turn from their sins, to take up their cross, and follow Him. They weren't interested in a Messiah like that.

3. The greatest transaction

Verse 12 describes the greatest transaction: to receive Christ and believe on his name. The word means to take, accept, and to get hold of. It is taking Christ with our whole heart. It means to acknowledge who He is (the Son of God in human flesh, our Lord and Master, our Savior and Redeemer, our King). It means to trust Him completely and surrender our lives to him in obedience. To receive Christ is to commit your soul to Him.

It is more than receiving salvation and forgiveness and the promise of heaven when you die. It is receiving Christ Himself into your life. This word “receive” is used in other scriptures, and in each case it involves an ongoing commitment, not just a one time momentary commitment.

Colossians 2:6 *As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him.*

1 Corinthians 15:1 *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand.*

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 ³ *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.*

1 Thessalonians 2:13 *For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*

Hebrews 12:28 *Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.*

John 1:16 *And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace.*

God gives and we receive. Receiving Christ is the greatest thing that ever happens in a person’s life. Receiving Christ is life-changing. As John 1:12-13 says, when we receive Christ we have the power (authority, divine right) to become the sons of God. We are born again by the regenerating power of God, not by anything we have done or could do. As verses 4-5 teach, Christ gives us life and light. If we have received Christ we have His life and we have His light.

Maybe the best picture of this is marriage. When you get married you receive a person into your heart and life on your wedding day and you begin married life together. You don’t leave the ceremony thinking that was nice, but I’m glad that’s over. You hold on to each other, later on you leave together and from then on live together day by day as husband and wife. It’s like that when you receive Christ as your Lord and Savior. You live life with Him and for Him. And you’re always mindful and thankful that you never have to live a day without Him. That’s what it means to receive Him.