

## Christmas Together

### 1 John 3:8

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

### Illustration

Manger and cross.

#### I. We love God's proposes.

### 1 John 3:8

The reason

- A. God has a reason for everything he does.
  - 1. Nothing he does is without reason.
  - 2. All his acts are with reason and are perfect in every way.
  
- B. The reason the son of God came.
  - 1. He came because of a reason.
  - 2. He came with a reason.
  - 3. He came with a purpose.
  - 4. God always has an objective, motive, goal, aim, purpose, cause.
  
- C. He is not without reason or purpose.
  - 1. His purposes are wonderful and they are astounding.

### Psalm 33:11

...the plans of the Lord stand firm forever,  
the purposes of his heart through all generations. (NIV)

### Illustration

### Luke 2:16-20

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> **and all who heard it were amazed** at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> **But Mary treasured up all these things** and **pondered them in her heart**. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, **glorifying and praising God** for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

### Unpack

- All who heard it were **amazed**.
- Mary **treasured up all these things**.
- Mary **pondered them in her heart**.
- Shepherds returned **glorifying and praising God**.

### **Illustration**

#### **Jeremiah 1:5**

<sup>4</sup>The word of the Lord came to me, saying,

<sup>5</sup>“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
before you were born I set you apart;  
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

### **Unpack**

1. Jeremiah was not an accident.
2. Not a coincidence.
3. He was a designed and brought about by God.
4. Jeremiah was formed by God.
  - a. The mother of Jeremiah remains nameless but God used her womb to accomplish his purpose.
  - b. God used Jeremiah’s mother’s womb as an incubator to form Jeremiah.
  - c. While in his embryonic pre-born state God was forming him – God did that.
  - d. He was set apart in advanced – God always has a PLAN!

<sup>6</sup>“Alas, Sovereign Lord,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.”

<sup>7</sup>But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. <sup>8</sup>Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the Lord.

<sup>9</sup>Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth. <sup>10</sup>See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”

<sup>11</sup>The word of the Lord came to me: “What do you see, Jeremiah?”

“I see the branch of an almond tree,” I replied.

#### **Jeremiah 1:12**

The Lord said to me, “You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled.”

### **Unpack**

1. God is watching to see that his word is fulfilled.

### **Application**

1. Don't stop with a partial work.
2. How do I have a completed work.
3. Don't stop growing.
4. Don't stop asking.

### **What do I do with this?**

#### **This is for all the people at a crossroads in your life.**

- **David is at a crossroads he is running for his life.**

### **Psalm 57:1-2**

<sup>1</sup>...for in you my soul takes refuge;  
in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge...

<sup>2</sup>I cry out to God Most High,  
to God who fulfills his purpose for me. (ESV)

1. God has reasons for your life.
2. Do what David did in Psalm 57
  - a. Take refuge – Rest in the promises of God for you.
  - b. Cry out to God.
  - c. Let him fulfill his purpose for ME!

## **II. We love God's revelation of Jesus.**

### **1 John 3:8**

The reason the Son of God appeared

- A. Be amazed at this.
  1. The Son of God appeared.
  2. He appeared.
  3. He was born.
  4. The most significant event in the course of history.
  5. Jesus born into this world.

### **Here is how he appeared!**

### **Matthew 1:18-23**

<sup>18</sup>This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant

through the power of the Holy Spirit.<sup>19</sup> Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.<sup>20</sup> As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit.<sup>21</sup> And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

<sup>22</sup> All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet:

<sup>23</sup> “Look! The virgin will conceive a child!

She will give birth to a son,  
and they will call him Immanuel,  
which means ‘God is with us.’” (NLT)

#### B. Who is the Son of God?

1. Jesus.
2. Isaiah called him – Emmanuel “God with us”
3. I like that name. I hope you do too.

Phillip tried to understand.

#### **John 14:5-11**

<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> **Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”**

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.”

<sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?

<sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

<sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me...

#### **Unpack**

- Jesus is the revelation of God.
- He is all that is in the Father.
- He is 100% God and 100% man.

#### **Application**

You don’t have to look any further.

You don’t have to search any more.

God is revealing himself to us in Jesus.

**Application**

1. Believe Jesus when he says... I am in the Father and the Father is in me...
2. How do I know if God is revealing himself to me?
3. What is a way I can know that?
4. What is a way I can make that practical?
5. I want that so is there a scripture that would help us with that?

**Colossians 1:9b-10**

<sup>9</sup>...We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding.<sup>10</sup> Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. (NLT)

**Unpack**

1. How do I know if I'm getting it?
2. How do I know if Bear fruit.
  - a. Fruit is evidence that you are growing.
  - b. Fruit is evidence that you have life.
  - c. Fruit is evidence that you are living and growing.

**Question**

What is the by-product of your life?

**Galatians 5:22-23**

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

3. Grow in the knowledge of God – produce fruit.

**III. Jesus destroys everything that holds us back.**

Don't get pulled backwards.

Don't let your friend be pulled backwards.

Don't let the enemy deceive us.  
 We are accountable for ourselves before God but....  
 We are in this together.  
 Christmas Together!!!! Right!!!

### **1 John 3:8**

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

- A. God is a destroyer.
  1. 1 John tells us he destroys.
  2. He is a destroying God.
  3. What does he destroy?
    - a. He destroys works.
    - b. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy.
    - c. He destroys works of the devil.
  4. That is the reason he came.
  5. Destroying is his mission, purpose.
  6. That is his reason for coming.
  7. To bring destruction.
  
- B. First mention of Jesus in the Bible.

### **Genesis 3:15**

And I will put enmity  
 between you and the woman,  
 and between your offspring and hers;  
 he will crush your head,  
 and you will strike his heel.

The work of the devil is to tempt people to sin.

When they sin, his work is accomplished.

So what the Son of God came to destroy is not just the guilt of sin (which might enable us to stay like we are and go right on sinning into heaven) but actually sinning.

The Son of God came to destroy sinning.

The enemy on the rebel planet is sin.

Christmas is God's invasion of enemy territory to rescue a people from the devil and destroy the sin in their lives.