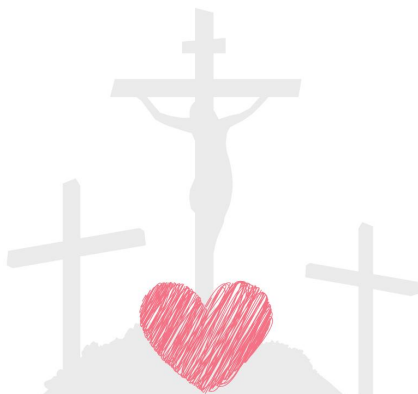


Gospel Series (C)

English

Christ's Precious Ministry for
Your Salvation



JOY CHURCH

The Purpose for Which Christ Came into This World

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)

In the Christian church, there are two very important events. One is Christmas, and the other is Easter. Christmas is related to the birth of Christ, and Easter is related to the death of Christ and His subsequent resurrection.

Now, why does the birth of Christ hold such great meaning? I would like to talk about that now. Ultimately, it is because this event is deeply connected to you personally. It is not "something you don't need to know," but "something you ought to know." If you were to leave this world without knowing this, you might end up having great regrets.

This is because, after death, when you are made to stand before the inescapable throne of judgment, you will need the help of Christ, the forgiveness of sins, and His advocacy. In Hebrews 9:27, it is written,

"Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment."

Then, why did Christ, who is God, have to be born as a human being?

As we read earlier in Mark 10:45, Christ came into this world to serve people. Even though He is the one who should essentially be served by people as God, God Himself took a human body, was born as a man, and continued to serve people.

Christ's Ultimate Service for Human Weakness

So, what kind of service did Christ perform? The Bible says, "to give his life as a ransom for many." So that we may be saved from the eternal punishment we deserve after death because of sin, Christ bore your sins and died on the cross as your substitute. As a result, after death, you will not receive the punishment for sin, and the way to heaven has been prepared.

Truly, Christ was the one born to die. Of course, all of us will surely die, but no one is born from the beginning "to die." Yet Christ was born to become an offering for the forgiveness of human sin—that is, to

bear your sins on the cross and receive the punishment of death. Through this, the way of forgiveness has been prepared for you.

The Birth and Death of Christ Are Not Accidental but God's Plan

The birth and death of Christ were already foretold in the Old Testament.

Isaiah 53:5 "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

The words spoken here were written about 750 years before Jesus was born. There, it was foretold with amazing accuracy how much suffering Jesus would receive and how He would bear our sins in our place.

Jesus' journey did not start suddenly. Things promised hundreds of years ago became a reality one by one. The Bible is not just a book. The fact that more than 300 prophecies all became reality shows

that the true God who created this world and still moves it today truly exists.

The Bible is a historical record of how God's plan was realized, and even more, it reflects the image of the One who is creating our history itself. You don't have to force yourself to believe. First, why not pay attention to this mysterious historical fact?

A Wise Choice for Eternity

Pascal, known as the author of "Pensees," was a genius who left great achievements in the world of mathematics and physics, but in fact, he was also a very devout Christian.

He explained that "believing in Jesus is the wisest choice in life" using his specialty, mathematics (probability theory).

If you live thinking "there is no God," and find out after death that He actually exists, that will be an irreparable failure. Conversely, if you live believing, even if God did not exist, you have nothing to lose. The choice "not to believe" is, so to speak, like gambling your life on a 50% chance. In the important matter of life, rather than making such an

uncertain bet, living with faith is a much safer and more certain choice.

About a man named Simeon who met the infant Jesus in the temple just after Jesus was born, the Bible records the following:

Luke 2:28 "Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

29 'Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

30 For my eyes have seen your salvation,

31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations."

Here Simeon confesses Jesus as the "salvation prepared in the sight of all nations (v. 31)." And he said, "dismiss... in peace (v. 29)" because "my eyes have seen your salvation (v. 30)." He was able to leave this world in peace after meeting Jesus the Savior.

I want to sincerely recommend this to all of you as well. Please make sure that your eyes see this salvation and that you obtain salvation before you leave this world. Until then, do not die (laughter), and do not become indifferent.

However, the devil still whispers to you now. "There is no God," "There is no world after death," "It's fine as it is." Do not be deceived by that voice. The devil takes no responsibility for your life. Rather, he rejoices in your falling into eternal punishment.

Impossible Salvation Through Human Power (Good Deeds, etc.)

Generally, when people think of religion, they tend to think of it as "something where humans accumulate effort and good deeds for God." However, Christianity is different. No matter how much a person tries, it is difficult to live perfectly righteously by one's own power, and one inevitably ends up piling up sins.

In common thinking, it's often thought that "only if a person offers something to God and does good deeds will they be saved." However, the teaching of Christianity is exactly the opposite. No matter how hard a person works, the reality is that they cannot live perfectly righteously, but rather they accumulate sin. In other words, there is no hope in salvation through human power itself.

Therefore, Jesus, who is God, became our substitute and hung on the cross, bearing all our sins and dying. The "salvation" that we cannot reach by our own power was completed by Jesus with His life. Through this "substitutionary love," regardless of our actions, we can receive the greatest gift of "certain salvation" just by believing.

Ephesians 2:8 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

9 not by works, so that no one can boast."

Amazingly, at the end of verse 8 above, salvation is described as a "gift." The word "gift" here means a present from God. Salvation is not a reward for our "works," but a free gift through God's "love." If we were to be judged by the quality of our deeds, we would surely be closer to punishment than salvation. But because there is the cross of Jesus, we can obtain certain salvation.

The Certain Salvation Given Through Christ

As mentioned before, humans cannot reach salvation by their own power alone. What arises from within

us is not salvation through good deeds, but rather something deserving of severe judgment against sin and evil.

But God, for the sake of such humans, put His Son Christ on the cross as our substitute and opened the way to salvation. The problem of "sin," which humans could never solve, was all accomplished by Christ on the cross. This "substitutionary sacrifice" is the basis of our salvation. Christ has fulfilled all the conditions necessary for salvation.

We can receive the salvation that was impossible for ourselves by acknowledging that this death on the cross was for us and by accepting Jesus as Savior. That Jesus cannot be seen with our own eyes, but through prayer, we can meet Him and obtain salvation.

John 1:12 "Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

For those who receive and believe in Jesus, there is a promise to become children of God. If you invite Jesus into your heart as the Savior of your life, you will obtain salvation and be welcomed as a child of God. And God will always be with you, protecting

and helping you throughout your life to come. Such a new walk begins here.

Won't You Receive This Salvation Now?

Just as an old man named Simeon once met the infant Jesus, saw God's salvation, and obtained peace from his heart, won't you also meet this Savior?

This salvation is a gift prepared for "you" and no one else. I sincerely hope that today you will accept Jesus as Savior and begin to walk a life filled with true peace. If you feel you want to take that step now, please pray while reading the following words aloud.

Prayer to Accept Jesus

Lord Jesus, I admit and confess that I am a human being who can't help but sin.

And I understand that this sin is the cause of the destruction and ruin of my life. I also realized that I do not have the power to solve this problem of sin by myself.

For someone like me, I am grateful that the loving
Jesus

bore my sins, died on the cross as a substitute, and
prepared the way for me to be forgiven from sin.

I now accept Jesus into my heart as my Savior. Please
come into my heart. And with love and power, guide
my life.

I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

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