

I. THE REASON THE SON OF GOD APPEARED (pt.1): 1 John 3:7-8

INTRODUCTION. Why do we celebrate Christmas? Why do we set aside a period of time to focus and rejoice in the fact that the Word became flesh—*that the eternal Son of God became man*—and dwelt among us?

Well the answer is not simply because of the miracle of the Incarnation, though that is a mystery and wonder to behold.

The reason we celebrate Christmas, and the Advent season, is because what Christ came to accomplish. What did Christ come to do? ***What was the REASON?!***

Another way you can put the question is, **Q.** *Why did the Son of God appear?*

The Christmas season does not matter unless you understand the Reason the Son of God appeared.

One of the answers to that question is in **1 John 3:7-8**.

CON(TEXT). **1 John 3:7-8** "7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. 8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil."

DOCTRINE. Christ came to destroy the planning and performing of sin in His people.

OUTLINE. There are at least four truths we need to understand in these two verses. The last truth, at the end of verse 8, is what we will primarily be focussing on.

I. WHOEVER'S LIFE IS CHARACTERIZED BY PLANNING AND PERFORMING RIGHTEOUSNESS IS COUNTED PERFECTLY RIGHTEOUS (1 Jn. 3:7b).

1 John 3:7b "Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he (Christ) is righteous."

- **GILL:** "As good fruit does not make a good tree, but shows it to be good, so good works do not make a good man, nor a man's own righteousness make him a righteous man, but show him to be so."

No one is counted perfectly righteous because of their own practicing of righteousness—we are counted righteous by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Yet your practicing of righteousness reveals that you have imputed righteousness.

Whoever labors to act like Christ reveals they are united to Christ by grace through faith.

Whoever labors to conduct themselves like Christ is counted perfectly righteous like Christ. Not because of their conduct, but because of what their conduct reveals—namely, the new birth accompanied by saving faith in Christ.

USE FOR EXAMINATION

RQ1. What do you practice? Perhaps a better question is...

RQ2. What do you plan to perform?

USE FOR COMFORT

CHRISTIAN. Though you would surely say with the apostle James, "[I] stumble in many ways" (Jm. 3:2), can you also say, "God's gospel is my delight and God's Law my guide"? Then praise the Lord, that is evidence that you are righteous as Christ is righteous.

II. WHOEVER'S LIFE IS CHARACTERIZED BY PLANNING AND PERFORMING SIN IS OF THE DEVIL (1 Jn. 3:7b).

1 John 3:8a "Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil,"

- **TRAPP:** "As if you might...fly to heaven with dragon's wings; dance with the devil all day, and sup with Christ at night; live all your lives long in Delilah's lap, and then go to Abraham's bosom when you die. These are the devil's dirt daubers that teach such doctrine, his upholsterers that sew such pillows (Ezekiel 13:18)."

Whoever acts like the Devil reveals they are still under the Devil's dominion.

III. THE DEVIL HAS BEEN SINNING, AND TEMPTING OTHERS TO SIN, FROM THE BEGINNING (1 Jn. 3:7b).

1 John 3:8b "for the devil has been sinning from the beginning."

- The devil was that first architect of sin. Though once an angel and servant of God, Satan rebelled against God and was cast out of heaven! Adam and Eve sinned first as humans go, but Satan sinned first as beings go.

IV. THE REASON THE SON OF GOD APPEARED WAS TO DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL—NAMELY, THE PLANNING AND PERFORMING OF SIN (1 Jn. 3:7b).

1 John 3:8c "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil."

RQ. Who cares?

BOYS AND GIRLS...

1. **Why are there wars?** Sin.
2. **Why is there oppression?** Sin.
3. **Why are people mean to one another?** Sin.
4. **Why is there lying?** Sin.
5. **Why is there theft?** Sin.
6. **Why is there murder?** Sin.
7. **Why is there betrayal?** Sin.
8. **Why is there depression?** Sin.
9. **Why is there anxiety?** Sin.
10. **Why is there suffering?** Sin.
11. **Why is there sickness?** Sin.
12. **Why are their corporations and organizations who love to harm innocent people in order to make money?** Sin.
13. **Why is there abortion?** Sin.
14. **Why is work so difficult?** Sin.
15. **Why is raising children so hard?** Sin.
16. **Why is life so generally difficult?** Sin.
 - **Romans 3:23** "The wages of sin is death."
 - **James 1:15** "Desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."

I) Jesus came to destroy the *penalty* of sin by justifying His people.

Romans 4:25 "[Jesus] delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification."

In Justification God takes a traitor on death row and both forgives him of every one of his crimes and clothes him with a coat more beautiful than Joseph's.

BOYS AND GIRLS [rehash illustration]

Though sin is still present in you if you are a believer, Christ swallowed the sword into his chest that was supposed to take your head. Though you deserve beheading, you get not only the pardon but also the inheritance.

On the cross, Christ took the penalty you were owed for your crimes against God by sin, and then He arose from the dead to give you His righteousness!

USE FOR ENCOURAGEMENT CHRISTIAN.

Q1. Are you able to recall your most *RECENT* sins to your mind? Christ willingly died to forgive you of that, and therefore you will live.

Q2. Are you able to recall your most *FREQUENT* sins to your mind? Christ was crushed by His Father for that, and therefore you will be embraced.

Q3. Are you able to recall your most *DISCOURAGING* sins to your mind? Christ Jesus appeared to destroy that, therefore lift up your drooping head and strengthen your weak knees.

Q4. Are you able to recall your most *HEINOUS* sins to your mind? Christ drank the cup of God's wrath for that, therefore you get to drink the cup of God's salvation.

USE FOR WARNING

YOU WHO ARE NOT YET TRUSTING IN OR SUBMITTING TO CHRIST.

Q1. Are you able to recall your most *RECENT* sins to your mind? What are you going to do with those sins?

Q2. Are you able to recall your most *FREQUENT* sins to your mind?

Q3. Are you able to recall your most *DISCOURAGING* sins to your mind?

Q4. Are you able to recall your most *HEINOUS* sins to your mind?

II) Jesus came to destroy the *reigning* of sin by regenerating His people.

Titus 3:4-6 "4 When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior

appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,"

In Regeneration God makes a spiritually dead sinner spiritually alive in Christ and dethrones sin from their heart, and replaces it with Christ.

BOYS AND GIRLS...

Though sin is still present in you if you are a believer, it is no longer king on the throne, but simply a bothersome jester in the court.

III) Jesus came to destroy *habitually planned practice* of sin by sanctifying His people.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 "For this is the will of God, your sanctification."

In Sanctification God progressively transforms more and more into the image of His Son, through both pleasant and painful means.

Christian, though you are not who you want to be, you are not who you used to be, and you not today who you were last year. You are not now who you will be in ten years.

BOYS AND GIRLS...

IV) Jesus came to destroy the *presence* of sin by glorifying His people.

1 John 3:2 "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is."

In Glorification God will instantaneously transform you into the perfection which Christ has. You will be totally free from sin, sickness, suffering, and sadness. You will be with Christ and like Christ on the New Earth, where righteousness reigns.

Christian, you will be the person you want to be. You will perfectly obey God's Law; you will perfectly delight in Christ; you will perfectly do your duties; you will perfectly love your neighbor Christ; you will perfectly love your God.

BOYS AND GIRLS...

CONCLUSION. This is why the Son of God appeared! Go and live in this joy and make this good news known to others!