

We Do

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This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:18-21

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³ Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. Romans 6:12-14

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

Jesus came to deliver us from our sins, not just forgive us for our sins.

Let's Connect

What was the best (or worst) Christmas gift you've received?

Let's Talk About It

Who needs Christmas? Well, as it turns out, we all do. We need a Savior who will save us from our sins. Jesus' death not only provides forgiveness from sin but also freedom from sin. Through Jesus' birth, death and resurrection, we are free from the power of sin and death and can live the abundant life God created for us to experience. That is why we need Christmas.

Galatians 4:4-7; Matthew 1:18-21; Romans 6:12-14, 23; John 10:10

- Which part of the message made an impact, caught your attention or challenged you?
- Read Matthew 1:18-23. Do you tend to view the story of Christmas as Jesus providing forgiveness for your sins or as Jesus setting you free from sin? What has shaped your view of the Christmas story?
- Read Romans 6:12-14, 23. What do you think it would look like for you to "offer yourself to God"? How would your daily life be different? Is it difficult for you to believe that sin doesn't have to be your master? Is it difficult to believe that Jesus has set you free? Why or why not?
- Does sin currently master you? How can you remind yourself that sin is not your master because Jesus has set you free? How can this group support you?
- Read John 10:10. Is it difficult for you to believe that Jesus wants you to live a full and abundant life? Why or why not? What freedom – what type of abundant life – are you wishing for this Christmas?

Take a Step

- Where are you needing God's freedom and abundant life? What step can you take to begin moving in this direction?

Here's My Prayer

- God, thank you for providing your Son, Jesus as a sacrifice for my sins so I can live free and forgiven. Thank you for the gift of abundant life. May I live in such a way that is worthy of the sacrifice you gave.