

CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS

I Timothy 1:1-20

December 6, 2020

“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.” I Timothy 1:15

1. **The Savior’s Unique Qualification: “Christ Jesus”**

He was "Christ Jesus," which means the anointed, Jehovah is salvation. The angel instructed Joseph, "thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). The name identifies One uniquely anointed to save from sin, and signifies that deity and humanity are combined in that One.

2. **The Savior’s Unique & Miraculous Incarnation: “Christ Jesus came into the world”**

Paul references Christ’s incarnation, that Jesus was not simply born as others are, but that He “came into the world,” having had existence prior to His entrance. Therein he highlights Christ’s deity, that He existed before His birth, yea, before all things.

Colossians 1:12-21

John 1:1-4, 14; 3:16, 17

I John 1:1, 2

Paul emphasized this theme again in 3:16: “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

3. **The Savior’s Incomprehensible Motivation: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”**

Matthew 9:10-13 "And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

4. **The Savior’s Success: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief."**

Lest anyone wonder regarding this scheme or its success, Paul declares his own conversion as confirmation that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and that He succeeded in doing so. Timothy knows Paul as a spiritual father, the most righteous man in his life—as an ambassador for Christ. With Paul’s words, Timothy now knows him as an example of Christ saving of sinners, and not simply sinners, but the chief of sinners. This belief of Paul's was not a reasoned conclusion: it was the dramatic work of Christ Who confronted Paul on the Damascus Road, transforming his thought and giving him saving faith. Christ was not only crucified for sinners; He came to bring them in unto the Father, and He will not fail to do so. "For the Son of man is come to seek **and to save** that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).