

Basic Facts of the Faith

信仰的基本課程

Why Jesus Came To Earth

爲什麼耶穌到這世上來

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們還軟弱的時候，基督就按所定的日期為罪人死。惟有基督在我們還作罪人的時候為我們死，神的愛就在此向我們顯明了』（羅 5:6, 8）。『基督耶穌降世，為要拯救罪人。這話是可信的，是十分可佩服的。在罪人中我是個罪魁』（提前 1:15）。

買下祂的教會

耶穌來世間的另外一個原因就是祂要買下教會。下面的經節告訴我們神在創世以前已經計劃有教會了。『聖靈立你們作全群的監督，你們就當為自己謹慎，也為全群謹慎，牧養神的教會，就是祂用自己血所買來的』（徒 20:28）。『知道你們得贖，脫去你們祖宗所傳流虛妄的行為，不是憑著能壞的金銀等物，乃是憑著基督的寶血，如同無瑕疵、無玷污的羔羊之血。基督在創世以前是豫先被神知道的、卻在這末世纔為你們顯現』（彼前 1:18-20）。『為要借著教會，使天上執政的、掌權的，現在得知神百般的智慧。這是照神從萬世以前在我們主基督耶穌裏所定的旨意』（弗 3:10-11）。『我還告訴你，你是彼得，我要把我的教會建造在這磐石上；陰間的權柄，不能勝過他。我要把天國的鑰匙給你，凡你在地上所捆綁的，在天上也要捆綁；凡你在地上所釋放的，在天上也要釋放』（太 16:18-19）。『因為那已經立好的根基就是耶穌基督，此外沒有人能立別的根基』（林前 3:11）。

神的計劃中、從來沒有建立成千上萬的宗派教會的意思。這個計劃是要建立一個教會、而所有相信的人都要成為這一個教會的一份子。聖經中強調的是合一、而不是分黨派（約 17:20-22；林前 1:10-13；弗 4:3-6；1:22-23）。基督是祂所應許要建立的教會的唯一的頭。在祂的教會中我們能夠洗去我們的罪得救（弗 5:23）。

that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). "For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.... But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6, 8). "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" (1 Timothy 1:15).

Purchase His Church

The other reason Jesus came to earth was to purchase His church. The following passages show the church was planned before God created the world. *"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28). "knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you" (1 Peter 1:18-20). "to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Ephesians 3:10-11). "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatsoever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:18-19). "For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11).*

It was never in God's plan to have hundreds and thousands of denominations. The plan was always to have just one church and that all believers were to be part of that one church. The Bible teaches unity, not division (John 17:20-22; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13; Ephesians 4:3-6; 1:22-23). Christ is the only head of the one church He promised to build. It is in His church that we are able to be saved from our sins (Ephesians 5:23).

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There are two main reasons why Jesus left heaven to come to earth. It is important we know these reasons.

Save Sinful Man

One reason was to give mankind a chance to have their sins forgiven. Why does mankind need a Savior? The reason man needs a Savior is because of sin. The Bible clearly says, *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23). Every person who can tell right from wrong commits sin. The apostle John also tells us this fact (1 John 1:6-10). What is sin? Sin is "missing the mark" (Romans 3:23). It is *"lawlessness"* (1 John 3:4). John added, *"all unrighteousness is sin"* (1 John 5:17). Also, *"the wages of sin is death"* (Romans 6:23). Sin causes us to go away from God (Isaiah 59:1-2), and Christ came to the earth to bring us back to God (2 Corinthians 5:20-21; Ephesians 2:16).

The Origin Of Sin

We have shown one of the reasons Jesus came to the earth was because of sin. From where did sin come? The answer is given to us in the first book of the Bible. After God created Adam and Eve, he put them in the garden of Eden, giving them everything they needed. He also gave them commands they were to follow. *"Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die"* (Genesis 2:15-17).

God clearly told them what to do. They were not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The third chapter of Genesis tells us what happened. *"Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, Has God indeed said, You shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden, but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die. Then the serpent said to the woman, You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate"* (Genesis 3:1-6).

Because of the sin of Adam and Eve, sin entered into the world (Romans 5:12). God already had the plan to send Christ to the earth to save man from his sin. *"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS: for he will save His people from their sins"* (Matthew 1:21). *"for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save*

耶穌爲什麼離開天堂到世上來有兩個主要的原因。我們得知道這些原因因爲這很重要。

拯救罪人

第一種原因是要給人類機會洗去他們的罪。人類爲什麼需要一位元救主呢？人類需要一位元救主是因爲人犯了罪。聖經很清楚地說、*『因爲世人都犯了罪，虧缺了神的榮耀』*（羅 3:23）。每一位能分辨善惡的人都會犯罪。使徒約翰也告訴我們這個事實（約一 1:6-10）。罪是什麼？罪是『偏離標準』（羅 3:23）。就是『違背神的律法』（約一 3:4）。約翰並說、*『凡不義的事都是罪』*（約一 5:17）。還有、*『罪的工價乃是死』*（羅 6:23）。罪使我們離開神（賽 59:1-2），而耶穌到世上來便是使我們與神和好（林後 5:20-21；弗 2:16）。

罪的來源

我們已經解釋耶穌來世間的原因之一便是由於罪。罪是從那裏來？聖經頭一卷書就已回答這個問題。神造亞當夏娃之後、就把他們放在伊甸園、也給他們所需用的。祂也給他們要遵守的一些命令。*『耶和華神將那人安置在伊甸園，使他修理，看守。耶和華神吩咐他說園中各樣樹上的果子，你可以隨意吃，只是分別善惡樹上的果子，你不可吃，因爲你吃的日子必定死』*（創 2:15-17）。

神很清楚地告訴他們該要怎麼作。他們不可以吃分別善惡樹上的果子。在創世紀第三章中則告訴我們發生了什麼事。*『耶和華神所造的，惟有蛇比田野一切的活物更狡猾。蛇對女人說、神豈是真說不許你們吃園中所有樹上的果子嗎。女人對蛇說：園中樹上的果子，我們可以吃，惟有園當中那棵樹上的果子，神曾說：你們不可吃，也不可摸，免得你們死。蛇對女人說：你們不一定死。因爲神知道，你們吃的日子眼睛就明亮了，你們便如神能知道善惡。於是女人見那棵樹的果子好作食物，也悅人的眼目，且是可喜愛的，能使人有智慧，就摘下果子來吃了，又給她丈夫，她丈夫也吃了』*（創 3:1-6）。

因爲亞當夏娃的罪、罪就進入這世界（羅 5:12）。神已經有計劃派遣基督到世上來爲了將人由罪中拯救出來。*『她將要生一個兒子，你要給他起名叫耶穌，因他要將自己的百姓從罪惡救出來』*（太 1:21）。*『人子來，爲要拯救失喪的人』*（路 19:10）。*『因我*