

**Introduction: Christmas is about “The Baby” that changed the world**

- An angel tells Mary about – the Baby!
- Mary couldn't comprehend having – the Baby!
- Joseph's problem with Mary is – the Baby!
- An angel tells Joseph to raise – the Baby!
- A manger is the birthplace of – the Baby!
- Shepherds come and worship – the Baby!
- Wise men follow a star to find – the Baby!
- Herod wants to kill – the Baby!

Let's shift the focus from the “Christmas Story” to the profound questions it raises:

1. Why did He come?
2. Who is He?
3. What does He want?

**The Christmas Story – From Heaven’s Perspective  
and Three Questions that Demand an Answer**



**Question #1: Why did He come?**

**Answer: Colossians 1:1-14**

**Author and Context:**

Colossians 1:1-2

- The Apostle Paul – A.D. 61
- Affluent town, multi-cultural, the new Church
- False teaching attacking God and Christ

**1. Jesus left heaven to GIVE us a HOPE that will never disappoint.**

Colossians 1:3-8

- He gives thanks to the Father...
  - For their faith in Christ.
  - For their love of other believers.
- This faith and love springs from the hope...
  - Stored up in heaven for them.
  - Since they received the Gospel of grace.
- This Gospel (Good News)...
  - Is the Word of Truth
  - Went around the world
  - Consistently bears fruit and increases
  - Came via Epaphras

2. Jesus left heaven to REVEAL God's **PERFECT PLAN** for each of our lives.

Colossians 1:9-11

- For this reason,
- He asks God to fill them with the knowledge of His will -
  - In all spiritual wisdom and understanding.
- He prays that they will walk worthy of the Lord.
  - Pleasing Him in all respects.
  - Bearing fruit in every good work.
  - Increasing in the (experiential) knowledge of God.
  - Strengthened with all power according to His glorious might.  
So that they may have:
    - Great endurance.
    - Great patience.

3. Jesus left heaven to RESCUE us from the **POWER** of darkness.

Colossians 1:12-14

- He joyously gives thanks to the Father who...
  - Qualified us to share in the inheritance of saints in the Kingdom of Light.
  - Rescued us from the dominion of darkness.
  - Brought us into the Kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption – the forgiveness of sins.

- How did He rescue us?
  1. He **QUALIFIED** you – your account has been approved.
  2. He **NAMED** you as an heir – you're in His will.
  3. He **DEFEATED** sin, death, and Satan through the cross and resurrection.
  4. He **PURCHASED** you out of the slave market of sin and **RELEASED** you from all your sins.

**Conclusion: Why did He come?**

He came because He **LOVES YOU** and wants to have a personal, intimate, **RELATIONSHIP** with you forever.

**Questions for Application and Discussion:**

1. What most amazes you about God's plan revealed in the Christmas story?
2. Which of the 3 reasons for Jesus leaving heaven resonated most deeply with you? Why?
3. How might you allow heaven's perspective of Christmas to transform how you experience and celebrate the holiday?
4. For whom did Jesus come? How will they know?

**Introduction: Who is the Baby in the manger?**

- A mythical character or a historical figure?
- A created being or the Creator Himself?
- Born of human parents or born of a virgin?
- A great teacher of truth or the Author of Truth?
- Subordinate to God or equal with God?
- A divine ideal or the one who bodily rose from the dead?
- A great religious leader or the Lord of all?

**Question:**

**Who do you think He is? Why does it matter?**

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**Question #2: Who is He?**

**Answer: Colossians 1:15-20**

**Four questions to discover a person’s identity:**

**1. Where are you from?**

Colossians 1:15

- He is the **image** of the invisible God.
- He is the **first-born** over all creation.

**Truth:** Jesus is the physical **REVELATION** of the invisible God.

**Response:** We can **KNOW** God personally.

**2. What do you do?**

Colossians 1:16-17

- By Him, **all things** were created.
  - Things in heaven and on earth
  - Visible and invisible
  - Whether thrones, dominions, power, or authorities
  - He existed before all things.
  - All things were created by Him and through Him
  - He hold all thing together

**Truth:** Jesus is the **CREATOR** and **SUSTAINER** of everything.

**Response:** We can **TRUST** Him completely.

## What Child is This? (Part 2)

**Who is He?**  
Colossians 1:15-20

### 3. What is your role?

Colossians 1:18

- He is the **Head** of the body, the Church.
- He is the **first-born** from the dead.
- He has **supremacy**, 1<sup>st</sup> place in everything.

**Truth:** Jesus is **LORD** over the Church.

**Response:** We must **OBEY** Him fully.

### 4. What are your goals?

Colossians 1:19-20

- For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him.
  - To reconcile all things to Himself
    - Things on the earth
    - Things in heaven
  - Having made peace through His blood, shed on the cross.

**Truth:** Jesus is the SOVEREIGN **KING** of time and eternity.

**Response:** We will **REIGN** with Him FOREVER.

**Questions for Application and Discussion:**

1. How did today's teaching alter your view of the baby in the manger?  
(Give an example if possible.)
2. What was a new truth or a new thought for you about Jesus' identity?
3. Which of the four "Responses" to the Truth most encourages you?  
Challenges you? Why?
4. What practical ways could you (and friends and family) keep the Jesus you learned about today, central to your Christmas celebration this year?  
(Make a list together, then choose 1 or 2 and put them into practice.)
5. Pause... spend some time worshipping the greatness of who Jesus *REALLY* is.



**Introduction: What do you want for Christmas?**

- It's what grandparents ask their grandkids.
- It's what the Santa in every movie asks the children on his lap.
- It's what we try to guess for those we love the most.
- It's what keeps us wandering for hours at the mall when we don't know the answer...  
but...

**Question:**

**Did you ever wonder what Jesus wants for Christmas?**

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**Question #3: What does He want?**

**Answer: Colossians 1:21-29**

**What He wants “FOR” you:**

**1. Jesus wants you to receive His PARDON.** Colossians 1:21-22a

- Once, you were alienated from God.
- You were enemies in your mind, because of your evil behavior.
- But now He has reconciled you...

**Truth: Jesus made it possible to be FRIENDS with God.**

**Response: We must REPENT and RECEIVE His pardon.**

John 1:12

**2. Jesus wants to make you HOLY and WHOLE.** Colossians 1:22b-24

- To present you holy in the Father’s sight.
- Without blemish, free from accusation.
- If you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This gospel is the gospel you heard...

**Truth: Jesus has freed us from sin’s PENALTY and POWER**

**Response: We must actively PERSEVERE in our faith.**

John 8:31-32

3. Jesus wants you to be 100% certain of **HEAVEN** with Him. Colossians 1:24-27

- Paul rejoices at the privilege of suffering for the Colossian church – this new part of Christ's Body.
- Paul was commissioned by God to present the Word of God, in all its fullness.  
  
Namely, the formerly unknown (mystery) which is... **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.

**Truth:** Jesus lives **INSIDE** of every true believer.

**Response:** We must **MAKE ROOM** for Him daily.

John 15:4-7

4. Jesus wants you to be spiritually **MATURE**. Colossians 1:28

- We [Paul and Timothy] proclaim Him, admonishing everyone, and teaching everyone (person) with all wisdom.
- [So that] – We might present every one **complete** (mature) in Christ.

**Truth:** God uses His Word, His people, and every circumstance to make us like His **SON**.

**Response:** We must habitually listen, learn, and **APPLY** God's Word in community.

John 15:8-11

What He wants “FROM” you:

1. Jesus wants you to share in His **SUFFERING** for His Body, the Church. Colossians 1:24
2. Jesus wants you to be a **SERVANT** to present God’s Word in your world. Colossians 1:25-27
3. Jesus wants you to help others (teach and admonish) become spiritually **MATURE**. Colossians 1:28
4. Jesus wants you to exert energy and work hard in His power, to help **CHRISTIANS** live like **CHRISTIANS**. Colossians 1:29

Questions for Application and Discussion:

1. The Father sent God the Son to the earth with a very specific agenda. How does His agenda impact your view of the baby in the manger?
2. Of the four things Jesus wants “For” us, which means the most to you right now?
3. On a scale of 1-5, how much are you experiencing what Jesus wants for you? Talk through each of the four points.
4. Which of the four things God wants “From” you are you currently giving Him? Which might be your Christmas present to Him this year?