

Galatians 3:22 (NLT2) ²² *But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God's promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ.*

Historically, Advent is the season of the church year of preparation, preparing our lives, our homes, and more for celebrating Christmas to the fullest. Secondly it is time to make sure we are ready to meet our maker when Jesus comes as the King of King's and Lord of Lords to judge everyone who has ever lived. The day of judgment is coming, and it is absolutely necessary for all of us to be prepared and to help others get ready for the great and terrible day of the Lord. That day will come soon. "Soon and very soon we are going to see the King."

This year I have a deep sense of urgency and a strong word of warning never to put off being ready for the final coming of Jesus. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus sheds tears and cries out to God as He looks over Jerusalem. Jesus knows the suffering that will be theirs when Jerusalem gets destroyed in less than 40 years later in 70AD. **Luke 19:41 (NLT2)** ⁴¹ **But as they came closer to Jerusalem and Jesus saw the city ahead, he began to weep. Luke 19:44 (NLT2)** ⁴⁴ **They will crush you into the ground, and your children with you. Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not recognize it when God visited you.** Jesus wept because the people did not recognize the day of their visitation by God. It broke his heart. At the second coming of Jesus the Bible says there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth for the people who rejected the coming Jesus, not being ready for the final visitation. You cannot ignore God and get away with it.

Across the college campuses from coast to coast there is a huge trend toward secularism, the rejecting of Jesus and Christian values. Their religion has become their politics so anyone that disagrees with them is not to be heard at all. They literally protest so they won't have to listen to those who do not think like them. When Christians speak out, they are often ostracized in the worst of ways. The Bible tells us Jesus has not come yet because he is giving time for people to repent, for the secular world to bow down to Jesus and be saved for all

eternity. This country is not ready for the second coming. O Lord, please make this nation ready for the great and terrible day when Jesus comes as judge.

It is good to ask ourselves the question during Advent. Jesus, why did you come in the first place? Why were you born of a virgin, live a sinless life, die on the cross, be raised from the dead, and ascend back into heaven? Jesus, why?

Having asked the question, I do believe all of you know the answer. And if you do not know the answer when I tell you the answer you will think, "Pastor, I already knew that." I learned that in Sunday school. **1. Jesus came to solve the problem of sin.** The biggest problem in the universe is sin, all of us falling short of what God asks of us. None of us can please God in every way. We break the commandments of God daily. Ever since Adam and Eve rebelled against God in the Garden of Eden, we have all been born with this lousy sinful human nature. Death entered the world through sin as did all evil, sickness, suffering, and death. The creation itself suffers from the fall and needs to be renewed. Jesus says. **Luke 21:11 (NLT2) ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes, and there will be famines and plagues in many lands, and there will be terrifying things and great miraculous signs from heaven.**

Paul writes, **Romans 8:20-22 (NLT2) ²⁰ Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, ²¹ the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. ²² For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.** Right before Jesus comes again the earth's labor pains will become so intense that it will give birth to a brand-new earth. The Bible is so clear on this. Jesus is coming again to correct the effects of the fall, the power of sin that impact heavens and the earth. All will be made brand new immediately.

Friends, at the heart of your pastor is an outspoken evangelist. Evangelism is a God given spiritual gift to tell as many people as possible about Jesus, the gift of salvation, being saved by grace through faith. Every person has a soul in need of Jesus, and this is no time to be

quiet about the gift of Jesus that saves people for all eternity. I especially feel that urgency at this time of year, Advent, but that urgency seldom wanes.

Jesus came to solve the problem of sin, to save sinners like you and me. Tonight's text, **Galatians 3:22 (NLT2) ²² But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God's promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ.** If I was ever arrested and sent to prison, I would thoroughly enjoy doing prison ministry. I could drink coffee and share Jesus with all the inmates. Wouldn't that be great? The answer is yes until the reality of what actually takes place in prison. After that door is shut, there is no getting out. At one time we were all in prison and we are guilty of all the charges against us. The charges are that of breaking the 10 commandments every day plus everything else God asks of us. Men, every time you view pornography, you deserve to be put into the prison of sinners. Women, every time you hold a grudge against your husband for something he did 30 years ago and you keep bringing it up, to prison you should go. We all deserve prison every day. Jesus came to set us free from sin. Jesus came to release us from the prison of sin. Jesus opens the door of your heart and moves into your soul setting you free from sin. **Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."** When Jesus died on the cross, He broke the power of sin, He overcame the power of sin for us. Yes, we still sin, but the blood of Jesus covers our sins, and the righteousness of Jesus is inside of us since the day Jesus moved into your life. Jesus bore the eternal consequences for your sins. He went to hell so you can go to heaven. That is why Jesus came. Can I hear an Amen?

Jesus came to free us from prison, the bondage of our sins. **2. Jesus came to free us from the bondage to ourselves, from the bondage of our sinful nature, from the bondage of always wanting our own way that displeases God.** Jesus is more powerful than the power of sin. When Jesus moves into our lives, when He saves us by grace through faith, all of our sins are forgiven. The Holy Spirit within us strengthens us to the point that sin no longer has to

dominate our lives. Our sinful nature no longer has to take over our lives. We have been set free from that prison.

3. Jesus came to set us free from the bondage to this world that is in complete rebellion against God. Friends, please be aware that this world was cursed after the sin of Adam and Eve. I define this world as the acts and actions of human beings that is a direct assault on God. Secularism, atheism, living one's life with no thought of God is living for this world without any thought of the world to come. It is living without faith in Jesus. Jesus had to come for this very purpose. "For God so loved the world that he sent his only son that whosoever believes in Him will not perish will not die but have eternal life." Jesus came so that everyone in the world who believes in Him and receives Him will be saved forever. The sad thing is so many choose their sin instead of righteousness. They choose the darkness and ignore the light, Jesus.

4. And yes, Jesus came to live a sinless life, die on the cross, rise from the dead, and ascend into heaven so every person who believes in and receives the Lord Jesus will spend eternity on the brand new earth and the brand new heaven. Jesus had victory over this world, over sin and death, over Satan and hell. His victory belongs to all who have let Jesus move into their lives. This is why Jesus came. He came for you. Are you ready to meet Him in the air when Jesus comes again? Amen and amen.