

CHRISTMAS: DECLARING THE GOOD NEWS

“Six Witnesses Speak”

12/24/06

Q. - Does our sense of need – for God and forgiveness and help and hope – cause us to create a god? OR do we have all those needs because we are in fact created by God and have rebelled against Him?

Today I want to let six witnesses speak and testify to why the Son of God came into the world. The witnesses are Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, and the writer to the Hebrews. The answers they give are six reasons for Jesus’ coming. Big Q. - What is the meaning behind the real Christmas story?

1. MARK, PAUL & HEBREWS SAY – JESUS CAME AS

Mark 10:45 – *“For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others, and to give my life as a ransom for many.”*

Paul put it like this in Galatians 4 – *“But when the right time (fullness) came, God sent His Son who was born of a woman and lived under the law. ⁵God did this so He could buy freedom for (redeem) those who were under the law and so we could become His children”* (vv.4-5).

Hebrews 2:14 (our third witness) puts it like this, *“Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil...”*

2. LUKE SAYS – JESUS CAME TO

“Jesus answered them, ‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.’³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Luke 5:31-32).

3. JOHN SAYS – JESUS CAME TO

“Jesus said, ‘For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see.’” (John 9:39). He adds in 12:46, *“I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in Me might not remain in darkness.”*

4. MATTHEW SAYS – JESUS CHRIST CAME

“Don’t think that I came to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵I have come so that ‘a son will be against his father, a daughter will be against her mother, a daughter-in-law will be against her mother-in-law. ³⁶A person’s enemies will be members of his own family” (Matthew 10:34-35).

5. JOHN ADDS – JESUS CAME TO

John 3:17-18 says, *“For God sent not the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned, but he who does not believe is condemned already.”*

6. JOHN CONCLUDES – JESUS CHRIST CAME TO

“For God so loved the world that He gave His One and Only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).