

Christmas Lesson: Solving the Sin Problem

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I. Introduction.

- A. God promises his promise.
- B. The central message of salvation is that God has come to save us.
- C. God is salvation.

II. Sin and sins.

- A. Sin is an inherited principle.
- B. Sins are acts that spring from the fact that we have sin.
- C. Different words for wrong.
 - 1. Transgression, which is rebellion against God.
 - 2. Sin, which means to miss the mark.
 - 3. Iniquity, which means to be crooked or distorted.

III. How we deal with the reality of sin.

- A. Some minimize the seriousness of sin. (Galatians 5:13)
- B. Jesus came to save us from the consequences and penalty of sin. (Romans 6:23; 8:1; John 5:24; Colossians 1:20-22; Romans 6:14; 5:10)

IV. The branch of Jesse. (Isaiah 11)

- A. The Holy Spirit is given to all who believe Jesus. It is a permanent arrangement. (Acts 2:9; John 14)
 - 1. The Spirit of God gives insight and discernment.
 - 2. The Spirit gives counsel and might.
 - 3. The Spirit gives us a spiritual obligation.
 - 3. The Spirit gives us reverence for God. (1 Corinthians 4:5)

V. God's Christmas catalogue. (Matthew 1:18-Matthew 2)

- A. An obedient, submissive heart like Mary.
- B. A desire for a nonjudgmental, loving spirit like Joseph.

C. A faithful, non-envious attitude like Elizabeth.

D. A responsive, praising heart like the shepherds.

E. The godly wisdom of the wise men.

1. Wise men are open to God's leading.
2. Wise men are willing to obey.
3. Wise men seek counsel.
4. Wise men have right motives.
5. Wise men are willing to wait.
6. Be wise and seek Jesus—he is Christmas.

VI. Conclusion.

A. We need a savior.

B. God has provided that savior in Jesus.

Application questions:

1. How would you reassess your Christmas catalogue in light of the first Christmas?

2. What are some ways that Old Testament foreshadows the gift of Jesus?

3. How can you make your Christmas a more meaningful spiritual experience with God? Explain.
