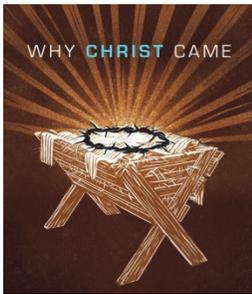


Christ Came FOR You!



Certainly, you have heard that nobody knows when Jesus was born. Christmas is popularly celebrated as Christ's birthday; but even those who recognize the day largely do so symbolically. The fact remains: Nobody knows *when* Jesus was born.

While it is uncertain *when* he came, there is no doubt about *why* he came. Over and over again the New Testament gives us the reason. Jesus tells us in his own words in Mark and John, and Paul, the author of Hebrews, Peter and the apostle John all tell us why he came. Jesus came FOR you and me.

- God gave up his Son for us (Rom. 8:32).
- Jesus came to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mk. 10:45; 1 Tim. 2:6).
- He gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God (Eph. 5:2).
- The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep (Jn. 10:11, 15).
- Christ died for our sins (1 Cor. 15:3).
- He gave himself for me (Gal. 2:20).
- He became a curse for us (Gal. 3:13).
- He suffered for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God (1 Pet. 3:18).
- He tasted death for everyone (Heb. 2:9).
- He laid down his life for us (1 Jn. 3:16).
- Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her (Eph. 5:25).
- He did not come for Israel only, but to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad (Jn. 11:52).
- He died for all (2 Cor. 5:15).

We don't know *when* Jesus came; but we do know *why* he came. Further, we know what is supposed to come of it all. He gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works (Titus 2:14). He suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps (1 Pet. 2:21).

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