

“WHY DID JESUS COME?”

“To Give Us Life In All Its Fullness”

Scripture Reading – 1 John, 5:1-12

‘Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full”.’

John, 10:10, NIV

Why did Jesus come into the world? What was his manifesto? His mission?

Jesus, a truly great man, with authority and conviction, himself knew what was his destiny. He knew it was clearly prophesied in **Isaiah, 61:1-3**. He revealed his God-ordained mission first in the synagogue at Nazareth, his hometown. Unlike the (political) leaders of today, Jesus would actually live up to his commitment. He was, and remains, the only person who could truthfully say, “I ALWAYS DO WHAT PLEASES MY FATHER”.

This teaching, presented at our Family Service, commences our series for Advent...

Our world is full of unhappy and dissatisfied people.

For this reason, people everywhere are looking for answers to the emptiness they feel inside. These people will try anything, if it might bring them some sort of satisfaction or happiness. Perhaps this explains why there is so much divorce, suicide, drug dependency, alcohol abuse, criminal behaviour, prostitution, sexual impurity, pornography, depression, eating disorders, and emotional and psychological disorders.

We are all messed up. So, what is the solution?

Materialism and wealth? Pleasure and enjoyment? Power and prestige? Religion and spirituality? Wisdom and understanding? Everybody seems to have an answer. However, I believe what Bible says is true. There is an answer to the eternal question: ‘HOW CAN I FIND HAPPINESS AND SATISFACTION IN THIS LIFE?’. Jesus states in **John, 10:10** the purpose of why he came. He said, “I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE, AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL”!

What did Jesus mean when he said that we can have “LIFE, AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL”?

A good dictionary will define the word ‘FULL’ as ‘COMPLETE... PERFECT... BEING AT THE HIGHEST OR GREATEST DEGREE... THE MAXIMUM’. Therefore, when this word is used in reference to one’s life, it means a life that is complete, not lacking in anything that is essential. It implies that one’s life is successful, superior, having an abundance of quality. The good news of the Gospel is that not only did Jesus come to save us, but he also came to give us an abundant life!

Jesus said, “I HAVE COME, THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE, AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL”!

God desires that his children are living a life full of happiness and peace, and in a genuine growing relationship with him. Through Jesus Christ, this life is still available today. It can be experienced, and Jesus came to do it! Christians call this quality of living, ‘ABUNDANT LIFE’.

ABUNDANT LIVING IS A LIFE FILLED WITH ALL THE THINGS THAT ARE GOOD FOR US

People who enjoy ‘ABUNDANT LIFE’ possess all of these qualities and more in ever-increasing measure: LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, SELF-CONTROL, COMPASSION, PURITY, HUMILITY, MODESTY, FAITH, CHARACTER, WISDOM, ENTHUSIASM, DIGNITY, OPTIMISM, CONFIDENCE, HONESTY – all qualities and characteristics that are growing in a vibrant relationship with God.

In other words, ‘ABUNDANT LIFE’ is a life full of all the things that money cannot buy.

No matter how much money you have, you cannot buy more patience, self-control, or salvation! Supermarkets do not sell love, joy and peace! Departmental Stores that claim to sell everything will not be able to satisfy your desire for character, wisdom and faith. So where do we obtain such marvellous blessings?

‘Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.’

James, 1:17, NIV

‘God ...richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.’

1 Timothy, 6:17b, NIV

ABUNDANT LIVING IS A LIFE FREE FROM ALL THE THINGS THAT ARE BAD FOR US

Everyone who lives an ‘ABUNDANT LIFE’ avoids these negative qualities: ‘SELFISHNESS, HATRED, LUST UNFORGIVENESS, ENVY, JEALOUSY, FEAR, DRUNKENNESS, SEXUAL IMMORALITY, DISCORD, FITS OR RAGE, DISHONESTY, GREED, GOSSIPING, SLANDER, PESSIMISM, DESPAIR’. If you saw this behaviour in others, I would be very surprised if you were attracted to them!

The more these negative qualities are a part of a person’s behaviour, the farther they are from obtaining this ‘ABUNDANT LIFE’. However, thankfully, the Bible tells us that God can remove all of these negative characteristics from a person’s life, every one of them! God is greater than our sins!

At one time, the Christians in Corinth, lived a life full of much wickedness and evil, but when Jesus was introduced to them, by the power and grace of God, many were freed from these immoral actions...

‘And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.’

1 Corinthians, 6:11, NIV

So, how do we obtain this ‘ABUNDANT LIFE’?

‘You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.’

John, 5:39-40, NIV