

Norfolk



Mission

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*Helping the Hurting and the
Homeless
in the Name of Jesus Christ*

As Christmas draws near, it is quite common to be reminded that we ought to remember the **reason for the season**. We must make a conscious effort to turn our eyes upon Jesus and away from the many traditions and trappings that can so easily distract us.

But what exactly are we to focus on? What is the coming of Christ all about? To put it bluntly... **Why did Jesus come?**

Well the good news is that we don't have to simply guess at the reason for his incarnation. **All throughout the Gospel accounts, Jesus made numerous statements declaring the purpose for His mission trip to planet earth.** The first reason He gave is found in Matthew 5:17.

*Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but **to fulfill them.***

Jesus came to settle up all that the Lord has demanded of His people. He came to complete everything that was still undone and to fulfill every prophecy about the coming of Messiah. **At the cross, Jesus made it clear that He accomplished this mission when He declared, "It is finished".**

Later on in Matthew's Gospel account (10:34) Jesus also said:

*Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. **I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.***

This certainly doesn't have that warm, cozy, *Hallmark Christmas* movie sound to it, yet it is equally true. The exclusive claims of Christ and the sharpened edge of His blade of truth can be quite divisive. **The crowds either loved or hated Jesus... none were ever indifferent.**

He brought me out into a broad place; He rescued me, because He delighted in me. 2 Sam. 22:20 ESV

In Luke 5:32 Jesus gave us a very clear mission statement:

*I have not come to **call** the righteous but **sinner**s to **repentance**.*

What a great statement! Jesus came to invite you and me to turn from our sinful ways and to receive His gift of redemption. This is the mission that Jesus had on His mind even as lay there as a babe in the manger.

Throughout the book of John we are told many reasons for His coming:

6:38 Jesus came to do His Father's will.
10:10 Jesus came to give us abundant life!
12:27 Jesus came for the specific hour of redemption!

Finally, Jesus made one last statement of purpose; one more declaration as to why He came:

*I have come into the world as **light**, so that **whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness**.* John 12:46

This is why He came!

This is why we celebrate the birth of the Christ child.

This is why we do what we do every day here at the Norfolk Rescue Mission. We exist to share with those who are lost, blind and in sin that there is hope. With the coming of Christ we have an opportunity to repent and to be redeemed. **Because of His coming, we can be freed from darkness and be brought into His glorious light!**

Please help us finish strong this year. Our finances our usually in pretty good shape by December, but unfortunately, we are still struggling at this time. **Your generous Christmas gifts and year-end gifts are very much needed and appreciated.**

Merry Christmas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pastor Will