

THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS PART 2
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INTRODUCTION

- Last week we covered that Christmas is a celebration of good news for all people.
- It is hard to get to the heart of Christmas, because there is so much to wade through as far as the trappings and traditions that surround the season.
- They can sidetrack us from the real purpose of what God was up to when He sent Jesus into the world.
- This week Christmas is about all things being made right.

I. MAKING IT RIGHT WITH GOD

- With all the relationships that need repairing, none compares to the one we all need most...
- Repairing our relationship with our Creator.
- 2 Corinthians 5:18-19, "...¹⁹ For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And He gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation."
- Four times Paul uses the word kata-lasso, root to reconcile.
- Katalasso = reconciling and katalagge = reconciliation
- Kata-lasso = to change from one thing to another - from an enemy to a friend, war to peace.
- Kata-lagge means changing one currency into another, an exchange.
- Sin separates us from God - Isaiah 59:2
- The great gift of Christmas is reconciliation.
- Romans 5:10, "For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of His Son while we were still His enemies..."

- Literally, not crediting our sin to us or counting them against us, He paid our debt! We are free!

II. THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

- Paul is saying, "God gave me and the other apostles the ministry of reconciliation."
- Which infers that we all should participate in it.
- He entrusted us with the ministry of reconciliation.
- Trust is a huge part of reconciling God to us and us to each other.
- The ministry of reconciliation requires that we become an active reconciler ourselves.
- Like Christ, a minister of reconciliation plunges into the midst of human crisis to bring harmony out of chaos.

III. WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN IN PRACTICAL TERMS

- We are all called to forgive.
- Colossians 3:13 NLT, "...Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."
- Jesus came to bring peace and tear down walls of hostility - Ephesians 2:14
- Our role is, we are Christ's ambassadors, sharing the message of peace - 2 Corinthians 5:20
- Seek forgiveness of those you've hurt.
- Extend grace to those that have hurt you.

CLOSE

- Christmas serves as a constant reminder that we are called to bring peace, because He brought peace into us.
- Luke 2:14, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."
- Christmas is about restoring relationships, between God and humanity and among people.