



Introduction

Pastor Chip covered the last message in our series *And Now for Some Good News* teaching on how “God Saves His People.” He retells the Gospel message through the story of Jesus’ birth in Matthew 1:18-21. The bad news is we are sinners by nature and choice and deserve God’s wrath. The Good News is Jesus saved us by becoming one of us, living the perfect life and dying the death we deserve. We have freedom from sin and freedom to live a life after God since Jesus came to us as a baby at Christmas.

Discussion

1. Pastor Chip talked about three types of sin: trespass [out of safe boundaries], miss the mark [gossip, unloving, etc.], and idolatry [worship of someone or something other than God]. Which of these three sins do you struggle with the most? Share with your group and take some time to pray for each other.
2. As a group, **read John 1:14** and put it in your own words. Then **read 1 John 1:1-2**. How do these verses go together? What is John proclaiming about the Word in 1 John? How can we relate this to Jesus’ birth in the Christmas story?
3. Take five minutes to thoughtfully consider one area of your life you feel “condemnation,” possibly a particular sin or struggle that was discussed in question #1. Write it down, and as a group, **read Romans 8:1-4** out loud. Tear up your sheet of paper, and surrender it to Jesus. Pray as a group to feel the love, forgiveness, healing and power to change through Jesus.

Think About It

“In the beginning was the Word, and Word was with God, and Word was God...The Word became flesh, and lived for a while among us” [John 1:1, 14a]. Before anything existed - before the earth, sun, moon, stars, man - there was the Word. The Word was with God, the Word was God, and the Word became flesh. Ponder these statements for a moment. This is a profound, life-altering truth. Jesus humbled Himself and came to us as an infant to live a sinless life and take on our sins as He died on the cross. The Good News starts with Christmas!

Do Something

1. Be invitational this Christmas season! Prayerfully consider who you can invite to a Christmas service at your campus and bring them with you to church!
2. If you do not have an accountability partner, find someone in your small group or church who can come alongside as you work through what God revealed to you through the Discussion Questions above.
3. Want to dig deeper in this message? Check out:
 - a. RightNow Media series “To Live is Christ, To Die is Gain” by Matt Chandler. Sign up for your free account at prairielakeschurch.org/rightnow-media.
 - b. *The Cross of Christ* by John Stott
 - c. Under the “Sermons” tab at prairielakeschurch.org, look for the sermon “The God/Man” in the *Blurry Jesus* series.