

## **Please Don't Come For Christmas – Part 2**

*4 reasons why Jesus shouldn't have come*

**Celebration Church – December 6, 2009**

### **Why Jesus shouldn't come:**

Reason #1 - He wasn't **wanted** by the ruling authorities

Reason #2 – He wasn't **welcomed** by His own

Luke 2:4-7 (NIV) *"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."*

### **Not Welcomed**

**Joseph belonged to a family yet no one offered help**

*"...he belonged to the house and line of David..."*

**Joseph and Mary were shunned by their family**

*"...there was no room for them in the inn."*

John 1:11 (NIV) *"He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him."*

**Jesus' life was a life filled with rejection**

Isa 53:3 (NIV) *"He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not."*

## **How Do I Accept Jesus?**

John 1:12 (NIV) *"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."*

### **Believe**

*"...to those who believed in his name..."*

Matt 1:21 (NIV) *"... you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

Phil 2:11 (NIV) *"... every tongue (will) confess that Jesus Christ is Lord..."*

### **Jesus is Jehovah – Jesus is God!**

Matt 1:23 (NIV) *"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"-- which means, "God with us."*

John 1:1 (NIV) *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*

### **Receive**

*"...Yet to all who received him..."*

Isa 9:6 (NIV) *"...he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

**He understands you – Wonderful counselor**

**He is all powerful on your behalf– Mighty God**

**His love for you never ends– Everlasting Father**

**He is the captain of your storms – Prince of peace**

### **Become**

*"...he gave the right to become children of God... born of God..."*

Gal 4:4-6 (NIV) *"But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons..."*

Rom 8:23 (NIV) *"Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies."*

John 3:16 (NIV) *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

## THE SMALL GROUP GUIDE

### Welcome

**Question** – Have you ever been in a situation where you felt rejected or unwelcome? i.e. school days, a party, a restroom

**Question** – Have you ever given or received a gift that was not wanted? (Watched a small child receive a gift they didn't want.)

How did these situations make you feel?

### Worship

Take a few minutes and reflect on all the things you have done that should give God a reason to reject you. Then take a moment and read:

**Romans 5:8 ( NIV )** *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Now praise God that He is not like us. He accepts us regardless of our past.”*

### Word

Eph 1:5 (NIV) *“Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.”*

In the message we heard about the biblical idea of adoption. In New Testament times adoption was for adults who decided to remain connected with a particular master or family they had served. The person who chose this adoption was marked with a hole in the ear to signify they were adopted. Once this relationship was sealed the adopted person could never be disowned by the family ensuring an inheritance.

Eph 1:11-14 (NIV) *“In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy*

*Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession-- to the praise of his glory.”*

In Ephesians 1:11, we see that God has chosen us. We know that we must accept God, but it's true that God has already accepted you?

What does this truth do for a follower of Christ?

How can God accept us even when we are imperfect?

Rom 8:9 (NIV) *“You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.”*

According to this scripture what is the evidence or guarantee of our inheritance?

What does the Spirit do for us, in us, through us?

How does someone know they have the Spirit? (See Romans 8:9 and following)

### Walk

Read Ephesians 1:1-14 every day this week. This week pray to the Spirit of God and ask for a better understanding of the inheritance you have in Christ through the Spirit, contemplate what it means to be adopted by God.

### Memory Verse

John 1:12 (NIV) *“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”*