

“Why He Appeared”

Part 1

(1Jn 3:4-5)



© Truth Matters Church, Inc.

# Overview of our passage



**Theme:** The Son of God appeared to destroy the works of the devil

☞ 1Jn 3:4-10

**Doctrine:**

☞ There is clear distinction of who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are

**Application:**

☞ We are to show ourselves to be born of God by not practicing sin

# Scripture Reading



## **1 John 3:4-10 (NASB)**

4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. 6 No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him. 7 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; 8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. 9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

# Exposit: 1Jn 3:4



4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.

- ☞ “everyone” can be rendered “anyone”
- ☞ “who practices sin” (more on this)
- ☞ “also practices lawlessness” (more on this)
- ☞ “sin is lawlessness” (more on this)



# “who practices sin”



- ❧ The “who” is anyone
- ❧ “practices” is the Greek ‘poieō’ to did, do, make, bring forth, or act
  - ❧ The tense of the verb is the action is completed or continual
- ❧ “sin” is the Greek word “hamartia” (from root harmatanō) which means to miss the mark
- ❧ The idea is the one who sinned (completed) and continues to sin (unrepentant) transgressed and continues in transgression against God’s commandments:

# “also practices lawlessness”



- ❧ When “the Law” is used in Scripture, it is referring to the Torah.
- ❧ However, John doesn’t say “the Law” but rather “lawlessness” (more encompassing and includes OT/NT)
- ❧ “lawlessness” = lawless deeds
- ❧ This being the case, John is making a contrast that you are either
  - ❧ Practicing lawless deeds; OR
  - ❧ Practicing righteous deed
- ❧ In v. 4, John is addressing the former, stating those who practice lawless deeds refuse to subject themselves to God’s law or commands

# “sin is lawlessness”



- ❧ This is why he summarizes this as saying “sin is lawlessness”
- ❧ Here is a biblical definition of what sin (missing the mark) means:
  - ❧ Sin = lawlessness
  - ❧ Sin = lawless deeds
  - ❧ Sin = anything contrary to God’s law or commands
  - ❧ Sin = the refusal to repent and submit to God’s law or commands
  - ❧ Sin = is what is in heart of man
  - ❧ Sin = your master
    - ❧ You can only serve one master (God or sin), and we by default choose sin

# Exposit: 1Jn 3:5



5 You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.

- ✧ Now we're getting to the main theme of this portion, why Jesus appeared
- ✧ "He appeared in order to take away sins" (more on this)
- ✧ "in Him is no sin" (more on this)



# “He appeared in order to take away sins”



- ❧ In context, “He” is referring to Jesus
- ❧ “appeared” is referring to His incarnation
- ❧ Q: What was the purpose of Jesus’s incarnation?
- ❧ A: “in order to take away sins”
- ❧ This reveals a couple of things:
  - ❧ Reason #1: We have a sin issue
  - ❧ Reason #2: Sin needs to be taken away or removed

# “He appeared in order to take away sins”



☞ Reason#1: We have a sin issue

Genesis 6:5 (the generation at the time of Noah)

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that **every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**

☞ “every intent” means “every intent”

☞ All of our thoughts is inclined to do evil continually

☞ This is the reality of everyone (yes you too ☹)

# “He appeared in order to take away sins”



Reason #1: We have a sin issue (cont'd)

Jeremiah 17:9

“The heart is more deceitful than all else

And is desperately sick;

Who can understand it?

☞ The heart is also the mind and thoughts

☞ Our heart (our very being) is “more deceitful than all else”

☞ Even more deceitful than Satan? yes, or at least tied

☞ “desperately sick” is the Hebrew ‘anash’ which means:  
woefully incurable

# "He appeared in order to take away sins"



Reason #1 (Why Jesus appeared):

- ❧ Jesus came because we have a sin issue
- ❧ A sin issue that applies to every human being (less Jesus of course)
- ❧ A heart that is always inclined to do evil
- ❧ A heart that is most deceitful (rivals Satan)
- ❧ A heart that is desperately sick and incurable
- ❧ WARNING:
  - ❧ "I'm a good person"
  - ❧ "I have good intentions"
  - ❧ "God knows my heart"
  - ❧ Your wicked and deceitful heart fooled you!
- ❧ So this is one reason why Jesus came in the flesh



# “He appeared in order to take away sins”



- ❧ Reason #2: Sin needs to be taken away or removed
  - ❧ Atonement must be made
- ❧ This is main reason why the sacrificial system and feast observances (including Day of Atonement) was put in place in the OT
- ❧ The writer of Hebrews discusses this in great length in chapters 9 and 10 of that letter, but here are is just a portion for reference:  
Hebrews 9:22  
And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.
  - ❧ No shedding of blood → no atonement → no forgiveness of sins

# "He appeared in order to take away sins"



✧ But the writer of Hebrews clarifies that it's a specific atonement that truly takes away sins:

Hebrews 10:1-7

1 For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. 2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? 3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year. 4 **For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.** 5 Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says,

"SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED,  
BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME;

6 IN WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND sacrifices FOR SIN YOU HAVE TAKEN NO PLEASURE.

7 "THEN I SAID, 'BEHOLD, I HAVE COME  
(IN THE SCROLL OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME)  
TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD.'"

# "He appeared in order to take away sins"



## Case in point:

On Day of Atonement, the blood sacrifices of bulls and goat never took away sins

God was never after such sacrifices

David under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit speaks on this in Psalms 51:16-17:

For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it;

You are not pleased with burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

God (the Father) was after a specific blood sacrifice

A perfect, sinless, holy sacrifice

Hence Jesus said in Heb 10:5:

"SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU (God the Father) HAVE NOT DESIRED,  
BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME (God the Son);

6 IN WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND sacrifices FOR SIN YOU (God the Father) HAVE  
TAKEN NO PLEASURE.

7 "THEN I (God the Son) SAID, 'BEHOLD, I HAVE COME  
(IN THE SCROLL OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME)  
TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD (My Father).'"

# “He appeared in order to take away sins”



Reason #2 (Why Jesus Appeared):

- ✧ Jesus appeared because atonement must be made
- ✧ God the Father and His holiness requires that a perfect, holy, and sinless sacrifice be made to atone and take away sins
- ✧ The blood of bulls and goats did not and cannot atone for our sins
- ✧ Only the shedding of Christ's blood and sacrifice can our sins be fully atoned for
- ✧ This is the will of the Father
- ✧ Jesus appeared to fulfill the will of His Father
- ✧ Hence, a 2<sup>nd</sup> reason why Jesus appeared and came in the flesh!