

TALKING POINTS

CHRISTMAS 2020 - TRUTH

LEANING IN

At a pivotal point in Jesus' time on earth He asked his disciples this question: "Who do you say that the Son of Man is?" Later one of his most beloved disciples, John, would answer this question in the gospel he wrote.

John's gospel describes Jesus in terms of relationships - first, His relationship to God the Father, His relationship to men, His relationship to creation itself.

John would go on to say Jesus, the eternal Word of God, became flesh - became like *us*, and chose to live among us. In doing so, we could see *firsthand* the glory of God. John would detail Jesus' mission as the mediator between God and man, and how He would provide the way for us to be made right and whole with God.

Read John 1:1-5, 14

The Christmas message is - there is *hope* for us. Hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory. To embrace Jesus, the true messiah, we must take Him into our hearts. In fact, only through Jesus can we truly call God our Father.

What does the Christmas message mean to you?

LIVING IT OUT

There are many for whom God is nothing more than a picture in their mind. To make God more than a "wall plaque", to make Him a true reality, He needs to live *through* us. Here are four reasons to give God our lives:

Because He Is The Eternal God - we should believe and submit everything in our lives to Him as the Sovereign Lord.

Read Romans 11:33-34, Isaiah 40:28

What does "sovereign" mean to you? How should it affect how you live?

Because He Is The Creator - we should seek to live for His purpose.

Read Colossians 1:16, Revelation 4:11

Why is it so hard to turn over our plans to God?

Because He Is Our Life - we should be filled with hope because we will spend eternity with Him.

Read Romans 6:23, John 5:24, John 6:50-51

Do you ever think about eternity? Does it fill you with hope?

Because He Is Our Light - light reveals truth. We should let Him shine into every area of our lives.

Read 1 John 1:5-7

How do we let God into the "dark" areas of our lives?

Because He Is The Ultimate Reality - don't settle for shadows when you can possess Jesus and he can possess you.

Read Hebrews 10:1, 12-14

What "shadows" can we get caught up in which distract us from the ultimate reality of Jesus?