

A WORTHY AND FAITHFUL SAYING
I Tim. I:15.

Some body has said that it is hard to sum up the Gospel message in one sentence. It is like the magic tent which could expand to cover an army and at the same time could draw up to accommodate one man. So is the Gospel of Jesus. It can spread out to cover the whole world and yet it can beautifully fit the individual life. *{we are in distress we have wrong conception of God's Church}*

There are verses that tell this message. Verses that sum up if you please the real meaning of the whole Bible.

a. "Behold we bring you glad tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For this day is born unto you in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord."

b. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

c. "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief."

This verse in Paul's letter to Timothy presents two great things to us:

- I. A great historical fact--Jesus came into the world. Now you may go to your sacred history or to your profane history and you will find that all historians of any note will tell you that Jesus did come into the world. There was such a man. Now they may differ as to how He came into the world. Some may try to dispute the Virgin birth while others uphold it. But all agree that He came. It marked a time in the history of the world that is recognized by all either consciously or unconsciously as we date our letters, documents, books, wars, revivals, deaths, marriages, and calendars. A great historical fact is presented in this text.
- II. A great and outstanding purpose of that coming into the world. To day we will ask some questions as to what the big purpose was for His coming into the world.
 - a. Some university teachers we will approach first. Mr. Professor, what was the purpose of His coming? He will likely answer, "He came as a great teacher. Well we can not dispute that fact for He was the greatest teacher that the world has ever known. Dr. Norman E. Richardson of Northwestern University was asked if Jesus lacked any of the qualities of a great teacher. He replied that there is no principle of teaching of sound teaching that is not found in the teachings of Jesus.
 - Many of the great teachers of the world have died and gone on and as the ages rolled over their teachings the teachings were crumbled to dust and were scattered to the four winds. But the teachings of Jesus were suitable to the age in which He lived and are reaching out and rolling over the ages and fitting into our life without losing a single syllable. He was a great teacher the greatest.
 - b. Mr. social worker what was the purpose for which Jesus came into the world? "Well He came as a great reformer." Well that is true. We look out into the past and review the reformers, Luther, Wesley, and others. Their work was fine in this regard but their work was naught except as it was seasoned or flavored by the social and ethical teachings of Jesus. So Jesus after all was the very fountain head of all real reformation in ages past or in our present day.

c. Mr. Modernist, why did Jesus come into the world? Why He came as a great example. Well there has never been a better example nor a greater example than Jesus. According to the modernist Jesus born just as any of us grew up to be a more perfect example than we are. Example does not require Virgin birth, or divinity. He was a great example - the greatest.

d. Paul we want to ask you a question. You knew a great deal about Jesus. Now tell us please sir why did Jesus come into the world? Did He come as the great teacher? "Yes" says Paul. "Did He come as the great reformer?" "Yes he was a great reformer." Well did He come as the great example? "Yes!" "Well Paul you seem to have an amused look on your face what do you mean?" "I am amused that in all your questions you have not seen the purpose for which Jesus came into the world." "Tell us Paul quickly." "This is a faithful saying worthy of all acceptance that Jesus came into the world TO SAVE SINNERS."

It is wonderful to preach a beautiful gospel and portray Jesus as the Christ of the beautiful flowers, balmy breezes and of the sunshine. It is great to hang on His teachings, His principles of reformation, and look to Him as a great example. But you go down into the slums with that gospel and you will not save a soul in a million years if you end with that.

Dr. Berry had the experience of a girl rushing into his study asking him to go and help her mother in. He went to help her in out of the cold but girl said I want you to help her into heaven. Found in slums in smoky cottage on mattress of shucks he told her of the beautiful Christ of the birds sunshine and flowers. The great teacher, reformer and example. She with tears said, "I find no peace in that Christ for I have lost all sense of the beautiful and kind. I am a great sinner and I am dying and I am lost is there a Christ for me?" He was then about to be a unitarian but he went back in his mind and told her of the Christ that his mother told him about. and quoted the song, "There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins and sinners plunged beneath that stream lose all their guilty stains." She was saved and she was helped into heaven and so was the preacher.

