



HELPING MEN LIVE LIVES OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR

# HOAW Newsletter

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:6-11

## December 2019

## The Reason for the Season

by Dr. Greg Bourgond

Christmas is just around the corner. Marketers are inundating all media with advertisements appealing to our materialism. Certainly, it is joyful to give gifts to those we love at this time of year. Lost, however, in the frenzy is the real reason for the season—the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Why did He give up His heavenly abode and take the form and nature of a human? Dr. John Piper (2006), published a book listing the reasons why Christ came to us. I would encourage you to review these reasons to gain a full appreciation of the reason for the season.

### To Absorb the Wrath of God

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.” Galatians 3:13 God put [Christ] forward as propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. Romans 3:25 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he

loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:10

### To Please His Heavenly Father

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief. Isaiah 53:10 Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2

### To Learn Obedience and Be Perfected

Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. Hebrews 5:8 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. Hebrews 2:10

### To Achieve His Own Resurrection from the Dead

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will. Hebrews 13:20-21

### To Show the Wealth of God’s Love and Grace for Sinners

One will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:7-8 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace. Ephesians 1:7

### To Show His Own Love for Us

Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2 Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. Ephesians 5:25 [He] loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

### To Cancel the Legal Demands of the Law Against Us

And you, who were dead in your trespasses . . . God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal

demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. Colossians 2:13

### **To Become a Ransom for Many**

The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Mark 10:45

### **For the Forgiveness of Our Sins**

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses. Ephesians 1:7 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Matthew 26:28

### **To Provide the Basis for Our Justification**

We have now been justified by his blood. Romans 5:9 [We] are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Romans 3:24 We hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. Romans 3:28

### **To Complete the Obedience That Becomes Our Righteousness**

Being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Philippians 2:8 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. Romans 5:19 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21 . . . not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ. Philippians 3:9

### **To Take Away Our Condemnation**

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Romans 8:34

### **To Abolish Circumcision and All Rituals as the Basis of Salvation**

But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision . . . the offense of the cross has been removed. Galatians 5:11 It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh

who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Galatians 6:12

### **To Bring Us to Faith and Keep Us Faithful**

This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Mark 14:24 I will make with them an everlasting covenant. . . . And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. Jeremiah 32:40

### **To Make Us Holy, Blameless, and Perfect**

For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. Hebrews 10:14 He has now reconciled [you] in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him. Colossians 1:22 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 1 Corinthians 5:7

### **To Give Us a Clear Conscience**

How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Hebrews 9:14

### **To Obtain for Us All Things That Are Good for Us**

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Romans 8:32

### **To Heal Us from Moral and Physical Sickness**

Upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5 [He] healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases." Matthew 8:16-17

### **To Give Eternal Life to All Who Believe on Him**

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

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### **To Reconcile Us to God**

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. Romans 5:10

### **To Bring Us to God**

Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God. 1 Peter 3:18 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:13

### **So That We Might Belong to Him**

You also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead. Romans 7:4 You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. Acts 20:28

### **To Give Us Confident Access to the Holiest Place**

We have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus. Hebrews 10:19

### **To Become for Us the Place Where We Meet God**

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. John 2:19-21

### **To Bring the Old Testament Priesthood to an End and Become the Eternal High Priest**

The former priests . . . were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. . . He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. Hebrews 7:23-27 For Christ has entered . . . into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. Hebrews 9:24-26 Every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. Hebrews 10:11-12

### **To Become a Sympathetic and Helpful Priest**

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:15-16

### **To Free Us from the Futility of Our Ancestry**

You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 1 Peter 1:18-19

### **To Free Us from the Slavery of Sin**

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Revelation 1:5-6 Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Hebrews 13:12

### **That We Might Die to Sin and Live to Righteousness**

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. 1 Peter 2:24

### **So That We Would Die to the Law and Bear Fruit for God**

You also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. Romans 7:4

### **To Enable Us to Live for Christ and Not Ourselves**

He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. 2 Corinthians 5:15

### **To Make His Cross the Ground of All Our Boasting**

Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Galatians 6:14

### **To Enable Us to Live by Faith in Him**

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

### **To Give Marriage Its Deepest Meaning**

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. Ephesians 5:25

### **To Create a People Passionate for Good Works**

[He] gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for

himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. Titus 2:14

### **To Call Us to Follow His Example of Lowliness and Costly Love**

This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. . . For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 1 Peter 2:19-21 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. Hebrews 12:3-4 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Philippians 2:5-8

### **To Create a Band of Crucified Followers**

If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23 Whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Matthew 10:38

### **To Free Us from Bondage to the Fear of Death**

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. Hebrews 2:14-15

### **So That We Would Be with Him Immediately After Death**

[He] died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. 1 Thessalonians 5:10 To live is Christ, and to die is gain. . . I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. Philippians 1:21, 23 We would rather be

away from the body and at home with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:8

### To Secure Our Resurrection from the Dead

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Romans 6:5 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Romans 8:11 If we have died with him, we will also live with him. 2 Timothy 2:11

### To Disarm the Rulers and Authorities

He set aside [the legal brief against us], nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. Colossians 2:14-15 The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. 1 John 3:8

### To Unleash the Power of God in the Gospel

The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18 I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Romans 1:16

### To Destroy the Hostility Between Races

He . . . has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. Ephesians 2:14-16

### To Ransom People from Every Tribe and Language and People and Nation

Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. Revelation 5:9

### To Gather All His Sheep from Around the World

[Caiaphas] did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. John 11:51-52 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. John 10:16

### To Rescue Us from Final Judgment

Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. Hebrews 9:28

### To Gain His Joy and Ours

For the joy that was set before him, [he] endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2

### So That He Would Be Crowned with Glory and Honor

But we see . . . Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death. Hebrews 2:9 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name. Philippians 2:7-9 Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing! Revelation 5:12

### To Show That the Worst Evil Is Meant by God for Good

In this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus . . . both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. Acts 4:27-28

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If you would like to contact me directly, email me at [HOAWMinistries.com](mailto:HOAWMinistries.com).



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## Websites for Men

### Legacy Minded Men

[www.legacymindedmen.org](http://www.legacymindedmen.org)

### Heart of a Warrior Ministries

[www.Heartofawarrior.org](http://www.Heartofawarrior.org)

### Church for Men

<http://churchformen.com/>

### Resolute

<https://beresolute.org/>

### Life Way Men

<https://blog.lifeway.com/leadingmen/>

### Men's Fraternity

<http://www.mensfraternity.com/>

### Man in the Mirror

<http://maninthemirror.org/>

### Men with No Regrets

<http://www.menwithnoregrets.org/>

### National Collision of Men's Ministries

<http://ncmm.org/>

### Every Man's Battle

<https://newlife.com/emb/>

### Iron Sharpens Iron

<http://ironsharpensiron.net/>

### Ransomed Heart Ministries

<http://www.ransomedheart.com/>

### Band of Brothers

[www.bandofbrothers.org/](http://www.bandofbrothers.org/)

### Man Up God's Way

<http://www.manupgodsway.org/>

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<http://www.ironworksmen.com/>