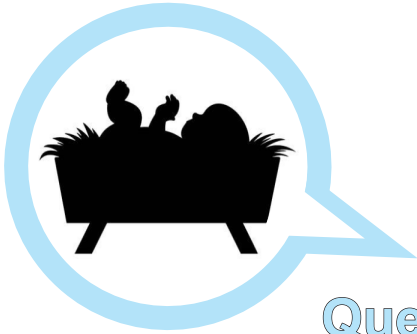


# The Christmas Child

## Part 3: What Does He Want For Me?

# TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

2019.12.15



**Talk** together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11  
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

## Questions for Discussion & Application

Triangle Community Church aims to be a "transforming church". We exist to be used by God as He transforms ordinary people into extraordinary followers of Jesus Christ. TCC believes not only that life-change is possible—but that it is to be expected. Growth is God's will for *all* his people. But transformation **does not** happen by accident. It requires intentional, intelligent action. I Timothy 4:7 instructs you to "discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness." Since "**Talking Points, Walking Points**" is intended both for individual reflection and for group discussion, questions vary in degree of vulnerability required. Generally it is best to begin group discussions with questions which involve less personal disclosure—but don't linger there. Be sure to "dive deep" too! The questions which require the greatest openness and honesty, as well as those in the section entitled "**Digging Deeper in your Daily Quiet Time**", are perfect for private reflection.

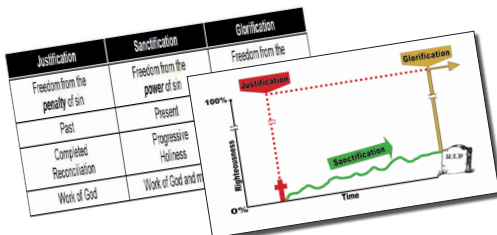
- Pastor Doug noted that God the Father sent God the Son to the earth with a specific agenda. How does His agenda impact your view of that baby in the manger?
- Of the four things Jesus wants **for** us, which one is the most meaningful to you now—and **why**?
- Read Colossians 1:21-28. Verse 21 describes humanity in three ways. What are they?

Alienated **from whom**? Hostile **toward what ideas**? "Evil" **as defined by whom**?  
**How much** do you really agree with that assessment of yourself personally? Explain.

Verse 26-27 tells us that a "mystery"—a truth about God which formerly was unknown—has now been revealed. The last line of v. 27 tells us the **content** of that mystery. What is it?

How exciting is the content of that mystery to you personally—and **why**?

- Review the following two charts found in today's *Talking Points, Walking Points*.  
How do they "unpack" that mystery in greater detail?



How do they increase your excitement over the mystery?

**Do you feel disconnected from God?**  
For free biblical counseling, write to:  
[BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com](mailto:BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com)

## Application-Challenge

- Receive God's pardon by trusting Christ to forgive your sins.
- Actively pursue Christlikeness in this life.
- "Make room" in your life for Christ" through submission and worship.
- Listen, learn and apply God's Word in the context of church community.

## Sermon Summary      Key Passage: Colossians 1:21-28

The most commonly asked question in December is “What do you want for Christmas?” Have you ever wondered what Jesus wants for Christmas? The series we are exploring raises four questions, and in previous weeks we have talked about why Jesus came and who he is. Today I want to begin answering the question, “What does Jesus want?” I think he would answer that question in two parts—first, he would tell us what he wants for us, and then he would tell us what he wants from us. Today, we are going to answer the first question and next week we will answer the second question.

So, what does Jesus want for you? We find our answer in Colossians 1:21-28, our text for today’s message. This is not the traditional Christmas story that is found in the gospels. It is a different angle on the Christmas story, told from heaven’s perspective, and I think the book of Colossians gives us that insight. This letter was written to a brand new church of which Paul had heard reports but had never visited. He wrote this letter to correct their erroneous teaching. In his response, Paul identifies four things that Jesus wants for you:

**[1] Jesus wants you to receive his pardon.** (Colossians 1:21-22a) We were alienated from God and failed to love the way He requires, but we were reconciled to God through Jesus who took our sins upon himself. We must receive God’s pardon by putting our trust in Jesus as Savior.

**[2] Jesus wants to make you holy and whole.** (Colossians 1:22b-23) God wants to progressively form Christlike character in you through a three-pronged process of justification, sanctification, and glorification.

Justification	Sanctification	Glorification
Freedom from the <b>penalty</b> of sin	Freedom from the <b>power</b> of sin	Freedom from the <b>presence</b> of sin
Past	Present	Future
Completed Reconciliation	Progressive Holiness	Assured Holiness
Work of God	Work of God and man	Work of God

**[3] Jesus wants you to be 100% certain that heaven is your future home.** (Colossians 1:25-27) Paul preached the fullness of God’s word, which declares that the experience of Christ dwelling in you is the guarantee that God will complete your salvation and you will live with Him in glory.

**[4] Jesus wants you to be spiritually mature.** (Colossians 1:28) Jesus came to transform you into his image and wants your character and choices to mirror his. He wants you to love the way he loves, and he came to live within you to make that possible. A salvation that forgives but doesn’t transform is an incomplete salvation. I would argue that the world needs transformed people more than it needs forgiven people—transformed people who will act as transformational agents in society. God has designed us so that we are most fulfilled and joyful when our lives are a blessing to others, which is what God wants for you this Christmas.

### Talking To God About This Week’s Message

*“Heavenly Father, today I want to be a ‘doer’ of the Word, and not just a ‘hearer’. Amen.”*

### Talking To Others About This Week’s Message

If a neighbor or friend at work asked you, “*What kind of stuff do they talk about at your church?*”, how would you summarize the most important elements of this week’s sermon and the key lessons you intend to apply to your life? Can you explain it in **plain language** anyone could understand?

## Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

Throughout this week, let's learn more about the great salvation Christ offers...

**Monday**— Study Ephesians 2:1-3 & John 5:24

**Tuesday**— Study Ephesians 2:4-10

**Wednesday**— Study Titus 3:3-7

**Thursday**— Study Titus 2:11-15

**Friday**— Study Romans 8:1, 31-39

**Saturday**— ***In preparation for worshiping your risen Lord tomorrow with your church family,*** study Colossians 1:24-29.

### My Sermon Notes

