

The Mission Of God

Long Beach Alliance Church • December 16th, 2012 • Pastor Chris Lankford

For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

~John 3:17-18 (NASB)

1) Missional Heart Of God

- A) God's missional heart (Missio Dei) has been evident from the very beginning of mankind's story! He reached out to Adam & Eve even when they were rebellious and disobedient. He reached out to Abraham, despite his insignificance. Similarly, God reached out to mankind through judges, kings, priests, and prophets.

2) Missio Dei = Jesus Christ = Christmas!

- A) Most significantly, God reached out to mankind through Jesus Christ, the creator and exact image of God (Colossians 1:15-16), the redeemer throughout history (1:17), and fulfiller of God's missional purposes (1:19-20).
- B) Christmas is the highest moment in God's loving mission. Jesus' birth was unremarkable and normal, revealing how God's mission spreads through humility (Philippians 2:5-11).
- C) It is easy to celebrate Christmas traditions which overly exalt "the baby Jesus," making religious nonsense of His birth. It is imperative to grasp the point! God's mission is spread when His servants humble themselves on behalf of others, going where God's loving mission calls them!