

Unwrapping Christmas

1 John 3.5-8

Focus: on welcoming Jesus' coming to take away sins and destroy the work of the devil



Here is a link to RC Sproul's thoughts on what it means that Jesus was our scapegoat:

<http://www.ligonier.org/blog/passion-christ/>

Discussion:

- Read 1 John 3.5-8. In v. 5, how would you restate the purpose of Christ's appearing in your own words? What does this reveal about Jesus? How does it affect you as you reflect on the magnitude of your sin?
- What is the significance of Christ being without sin (v. 5)? cf. 2 Cor. 5.21.
- Read Lev. 16.7-10; Ps. 103.12; Is. 44.22; Zec. 3.4. How do these portraits of Christ bearing our sin affect you? Which one is most meaningful to you? (urge memorization and meditation on it this Christmas!)
- Who will you see this Christmas season that needs to embrace Jesus as their sin-bearer? Spend time praying for open doors for the Word (Col. 4.3) this season.
- OPTION: have people share stories about their rescue from sin by Jesus
- In v. 8, what purpose of Christ's coming is revealed? How does this affect the way you view and fight against your sin?
- Which of the principles from these verses do you most need to apply to your battle against Satan's works? Prov. 29.13; Gal. 6.1-2; 1 Thess 2.13.
- Spend time praying for anyone that God is calling to a renewed embracing of Jesus' work in destroying the sin that entangles them.

2014-2015 Acts Focus

To advance our church in our knowledge and experience of the Spirit in such a way that we will increasingly embrace His ministry in and through us, especially in witness.