

What Message Is This?

This is the last in the series of sermons entitled: **Interpreting The Signs**. The intent of the series is to help us get our sights off the world and set firmly on Jesus the Christ.

1. What is the Star?
2. What is the Stable?
3. What Child is This?
4. What Message is This?

Sermon Text: Isaiah 61:1-9 (The Message) Printed in the Bulletin.

What Message is This?

1 Corinthians 15:1-9 (The Message)

¹⁻²Friends, let me go over the Message with you one final time— this Message that I proclaimed and that you made your own; this Message on which you took your stand and by which your life has been saved. (I'm assuming, now, that your belief was the real thing and not a passing fancy, that you're in this for good and holding fast.)

³⁻⁹The first thing I did was place before you what was placed so emphatically before me: that the Messiah died for our sins, exactly as Scripture tells it; that he was buried; that he was raised from death on the third day, again exactly as Scripture says; that he presented himself alive to Peter, then to his closest followers, and later to more than five hundred of his followers all at the same time, most of them still around (although a few have since died); that he then spent time with James and the rest of those he commissioned to represent him; and that he finally presented himself alive to me. It was fitting that I bring up the rear. I don't deserve to be included in that inner circle, as you well know, having spent all those early years trying my best to stamp God's church right out of existence.

The Bible says that we are all sinners ([Rom. 3:23](#)). This means that we have all offended God. We have all broken His law. Therefore, we are guilty of having sinned. Because of this, we are separated from God ([Isaiah 59:2](#)), are dead in our sins ([Rom. 6:23](#); [Eph. 2:3](#)), cannot please God ([Rom. 3:10-11](#)), and will suffer damnation ([2 Thess. 1:9](#)). The only way to escape this judgment is by receiving Christ, by trusting in what Jesus did on the cross ([John 14:6](#); [Acts 4:12](#); [1 Pet. 2:24](#)).

Since we are sinners, we are incapable of removing the guilt of our sinfulness through our own efforts. [Gal. 2:21](#) says, "...if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly." The Law is the do's and don't's of moral behavior. In other words, we can't become righteous by what we do. Why? Because we are dead in our sins ([Eph. 2:3](#)).

This means that since we cannot remove our own sins, God must do it.

Jesus, who is God in flesh ([John 1:1,14](#); [8:58](#); [Col. 2:9](#)), bore our sins in His body on the cross ([1 Pet. 2:24](#)). He died in our place. He paid the penalty of breaking the Law of God that should have fallen upon us. He satisfied the law of God the Father by dying on the cross.

It is only through Jesus that we can escape the penalty that God will execute upon all who have broken his holy and perfect law. Do you want to be saved from the righteous judgment of God? If so, if you want to become a Christian and follow God, then you must realize that you have sinned against God, and are under his judgment. You must look to Jesus who died on the cross and trust what he did in order for you to be forgiven of your

sentence and be saved from the judgment of God. This is accomplished by faith alone in what Jesus has done. You cannot add any human works to what Jesus has done.

The best gift that I can give you this Christmas season is the truth about Jesus Christ. It is my sincere prayer that this message has accomplished that and my prayer that you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior. If you have made that decision this morning please let Pastor Dan or Pastor John know after the service and we will do our best to help you grow in the faith.