

Christmas is for Freedom by John Piper
Solid Joys, desiringGod.org

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)

Jesus became man because what was needed was the death of a man who was more than man. The incarnation was God's locking himself into death row.

Christ did not risk death. He chose death. He embraced it. That is precisely why he came: "not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

No wonder Satan tried to turn Jesus from the cross — in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11) and in the mouth of Peter (Matthew 16:21-23)! The cross was Satan's destruction. How did Jesus destroy him?

Hebrews 2:14 says that Satan has "the

power of death." That means Satan has the ability to make death fearful. "The power of death" is the power that holds men in bondage through fear of death. It is the power to keep men in sin so that death comes as a dreadful thing.

But Jesus stripped Satan of this power. He disarmed him. He molded a breastplate of righteousness for us that makes us immune to the devil's condemnation. How did he do this?

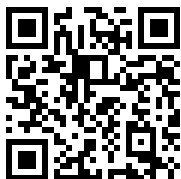
By his death, Jesus wiped away all our sins. And a person without sin cannot be condemned by Satan. Forgiven, we are finally indestructible. Satan's plan was to destroy God's rule by condemning God's followers in God's own courtroom. But now, in Christ, there is no condemnation. Satan's treason is aborted. His cosmic treachery is foiled. "His rage we can endure, for, lo, his doom is sure." The cross has run him through. And he will gasp his last before long.

Christmas is for freedom. Freedom from the fear of death.

Events

TODAY College & Career
Christmas Party 7 PM
12/24 Christmas Eve Service
7 PM
1/1 New Years' Day Service
7 PM
1/8 Small Groups

Give



Upcoming Events



Pastors

Gary Hendrix Stephen Byrd
Stu Johnston Bob Prentice
Michael Lopes

Service Times

— Sunday School 9:30 am
— Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
— Sunday Evening Worship 5:30 pm
— Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm

919-563-9249
www.grbc.net



December 22, 2019



*For from him
and through him
and to him
are all things*

Traducción simultanea al español disponible en servicios de AM y PM

Morning Worship

Call to Worship	Pastor Stephen Byrd
Opening Hymn	#168 Hark the Herald Angels Sing
Scripture Reading	John 1:1-18, page 886
Pastoral Prayer	
Offertory	#147 O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Preparatory	#149 Joy to the World
Sermon	Pastor Stu Johnston

Evening Worship

Call to Worship	Pastor Bob Prentice
Opening Hymn	#151 O Come All Ye Faithful
Scripture Reading	Hebrews 10:1-14, page 1006
Pastoral Prayer	
Offertory	Away in a Manger (words - #641)
Preparatory	#153 Behold a Branch is Growing
Sermon	Pastor Michael Lopes