

What If...?

I must have driven my parents nuts as a child. I have always had an inquiring mind. I must asked the question “Why?” thousands of times. I remember having a few conversations with my dad that I began, “Well, what if...?” Sometimes out frustration and other times merely in sarcasm he would say, “That would be a what-if-er.” No, that never satisfied my curiosity.

The word “if” is an important word in in our conversation. Rarely do we have a conversation in which the word is not used. The same can be said biblically as the word “if” appears nearly 1500 times in the Bible. It is most often used conditionally as it relates to things being dependent upon the attitudes or action of another.

What if Jesus had not come to earth? Can we and dare we even imagine it? Is short, if Jesus had not come, we would have no hope in this life or the one to come. Paul tells us that Jesus was in the mind of God before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4). In other words, before God created man, He had His plans in place as to what must occur for man to have any hope of salvation and eternal life. If Christ had not come, that upon which the plan was based would never have occurred.

It is a pitiful thing to see someone who has no hope. Many drastic things have occurred when one finds themselves in that hopeless condition. I thank God that Jesus did come to earth! The sacrifice was offered on our behalf. The church has been established. The gospel has been delivered. Hope is available in this life and the one to come. We have hope today because Jesus did indeed come to this earth.

Outline: If Jesus had not come...

1. There would be no New Testament (Matt. 5:17-18; Heb. 10:5-10; Gal. 4:4-5; Heb. 8:6-7).
2. There would be no reconciliation (Isa. 59:1-2; 2 Cor. 5:18-19).
3. There would be no New Testament Church (Matt. 16:13-19; Mk. 9:1; Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:18).
4. There would be no hope beyond the grave (Jno. 11:25-26; 14:6).
5. There would be no mediator between God and man (1 Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 9:15).
6. There would be no redeeming gospel (1 Pet. 1:17-21; Heb. 9:22; Rom. 1:16-17; James 1:21).

Sermon P.M.: Intertestament: Summary and Review