

# “It’s Christmas T.I.M.E.”

John 1:1-4, 14-18

December 2, 2018

Sermon Series: “The Purpose of Christmas”

Rev. Dr. Henry Hansen

## THE BIG IDEA

This message introduced The Purpose of Christmas series by looking at the topic of time. In the first chapter of John, we see that God entered into time and space through Jesus Christ. Pastor Henry used T.I.M.E as an acronym:

**T**ime (*chronos* time, see Additional Resources for definition)

**I**ncarnation (God became flesh in infant Jesus)

**M**oments (Allow *chronos* time to be *kairos* moments, see Additional Resources)

**E**liminate (Eliminate hurry and worry, allowing the Prince of Peace to rule in one’s heart)

These ideas framed how we look at Christmas’s three purposes (Celebration, Salvation, and Reconciliation) so we can allow our *chronos* time to be filled with eternal, meaningful *kairos* moments during Advent.

## GETTING STARTED

1. What’s one of your favorite Christmas traditions? Share a current tradition or one from when you were growing up.
2. Share one idea you took away from each of the four letters of T.I.M.E.

## LEARNING & LIVING OUT SCRIPTURE

Together, read John 1:1-4, 14-18.

3. “The Word” becoming flesh is the term *logos*, which is a word that has deep roots in philosophy. It is the main organizing force that holds all of life together and organizes it. To whom does John’s use of *logos* refer? Who and what is “the Word” in this Scripture?
4. During the message, Henry distinguished between Jesus being “of” the Father” rather than “like” the Father. Why is that distinction so important for Christian doctrine? (See Additional Resources below)
5. What does it mean to you that Jesus came full of grace and truth? Describe both. Which are you drawn to most?
6. John helps us understand that God became flesh. Why is it important for your faith that Jesus is God incarnate? What does this tell us about what God is like?

## LIVING OUT “REAL LIFE”

7. What part of the four letters T.I.M.E spoke to you most? How can you experience *kairos* moments during the Advent season?

## THE “EXTRA-MILE”

8. Give someone who doesn't go to church a copy of *The Purpose of Christmas* by Rick Warren. Also take some time to read it for yourself!

## SHARING & PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for people you know most impacted by the Camp Fire and ask for God's peace to take up residence in their hearts.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### Big Idea

*Chronos*: Ancient Greek word for quantitative chronological or sequential time.

*Kairos*: Ancient Greek word for time that indicates a proper or opportune time for action. Kairos implies a qualitative, permanent nature.

### Learning & Living Out Scripture

Contrast the terms used by two 4<sup>th</sup> Century theologians: Arias used *homolousios* (“like the Father”), and Athanasius used *homoOusios* (“of the Father”). Arias's view was ultimately deemed heretical, while Athanasius's doctrine was deemed Orthodox. Why does Athanasius's view matter so much? Henry shared some of the implications in terms of the first Christmas, crucifixion, and also “god-like” celebrity figures. Why is it important that Jesus was fully divine and not merely like God?

“The Logos is always in the Father, and, the Father always in the Logos (Word), as the sun and its splendour are inseparable.” Athanasius, Bishop 4<sup>th</sup> C