The Glory of Christmas
1 Timothy 1:15

The glory that I am referring to is what Paul called "the glorious gospel", 1 Timothy 1:11. God's moral beauty and perfection are seen clearly in the Gospel, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.

The True Glory of Christmas Is the Gospel

1. The Eternal Person
   "Christ Jesus"
   - **He is the anointed One**
     This is the meaning of His title "Christ". In the Old Testament, kings, priests and prophets were called by God and anointed. God appointed them and commissioned them. The eternal Second Person of the Trinity was appointed by God to be our Savior. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." This means His one and only unique one of a kind Son.

   - **He is the human One**
     "Jesus" is His human name. Jesus means savior. This is the name God chose for His Son. The angel commanded Joseph to name the child of Mary, Jesus. "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins", Matthew 1:21. This is critical to know that Jesus Christ is God's anointed One to be the Savior.

   -- Mary is not the Savior
   -- The Church is not the Savior
   -- Religion is not the Savior
   -- We are not the Savior

   Jesus Christ Is the One and Only Savior
   John 14:6, "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me'."
   Acts 4:12, "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

2. The Historical Event
   "Came into the world"
   Christ appeared at times in the Old Testament often in human form. This does not deny Christ's omnipresence.

   - **Christmas is a celebration of the Incarnation**
     This is a theological term meaning Christ took on a human body. The Eternal Second Person of the Trinity took on a true humanity. Colossians 2:9, "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." He came through the supernatural conception of the Virgin Mary. He was born as a baby and laid in a manger, Luke 2:7. He the "Seed" of the woman promised to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:15. The historical fact of the Incarnation is so crucial that one cannot be a Christian who does not believe this truth, 1 John 4:2-3.

   The Fact that He Came Guarantees the Purpose of His Coming

3. The Divine Purpose
   "To save"

   - **He did not come to condemn**
     To condemn someone means to declare someone guilty and deserving of punishment, John 3:17. There is no condemnation in the Gospel.

   The Glory of Christmas Is that God Sent Us the Savior

4. The Human Subjects
   "Sinners"
   He came to save sinners, Luke 19:10. The accusation against Jesus by the religious leaders was "This Man receives sinners and eats with them", Luke 15:2. Jesus entered paradise with a sinner. Who does this include? It includes everyone, Romans 3:10 & 23.

The confusion concerns the many kinds of sinners

Religious sinners and secular sinners
Ordinary sinners and notorious sinners
Self-Righteous sinners and hopeless sinners
We compare ourselves to others to makes us feel better about ourselves.
Jesus Did Not Come To Help Sinners Save Themselves
Ephesians 2:8-9, "…it is the gift of God, not of works…"

5. A Human Example
"Of whom I am chief"

- **Saul of Tarsus is the example**

He reveals to us how to receive this great gift of salvation.
Confession and repentance of sin
The word "chief" has the idea of occupying the first in rank of sinners. Paul no longer justified himself before God. Jesus said, "I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance", Mark 2:17. A person must first admit the fact that they are a sinner and be willing to repent of their sin and turn to Christ. Notice that Paul said "I am chief" not "I was chief". Every truly saved person carries within them the continual consciousness of their sin. Our redeemed soul is conscious of our grieving the Holy Spirit within us with our sin.
--Confession of and faith in Jesus Christ
"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance."
The Gospel is true but only those who believe the truth and have faith in the Son are saved, 1 John 5:12.
We are responsible to proclaim the Gospel. Some people will hear and receive the gift of salvation, Romans 10:9.
Others will hear and ignore or reject the message, John 3:18, "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."
The Glory of Christmas Is that Jesus Came to Save Sinners through His Death, Burial and Resurrection