

The Good Word

*"Exalting the Savior, Equipping the Saints,
Evangelizing the Sinner"*

December 2017, January & February 2018

"I Have Set Before You Life and Death, ...Therefore Choose Life! (Deuteronomy 30:19)

We have been inundated with stories of tragedies over this past year. Lots and lots of loss of life whether it be the continual war on terror or mass shootings, etc....many lives have been lost. What is more disturbing is the possibility that many of those same lives were lost spiritually. While we tend to dramatize and sensualize everything, the reality is that many met their fate totally unprepared to meet God...unclothed in the righteousness of Christ...unmoved by the Gospel.

I recently watched some old video on the History channel about astronauts...something I and several others desired to be when we grew up. Before the space shuttle program, American ships and helicopters used to recover astronauts whose space capsules had fallen into the sea. The tiny spacecraft would be located in the enormous sea, and the astronauts would be lifted out of their capsule into the helicopter, which would then fly them safely onto the ship.

As I watched, I thought how like God this operation was. God hovers over the entire universe, seeking to pluck from the sea of sin immortal souls who are in danger of "drowning" in hell. He tosses out a line, a scarlet thread to all who need rescued. Some, choose to grab that line and freely receive the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. They are pulled to safety, and, eventually, taken to Heaven.

But others ignore the line, or even knock it away, choosing to believe they are not really in peril, or that they can make it to safety on their own. Tragically, they are lost not because God rejected them, but because they have rejected God. He begs of us, "choose life!"

On another note...my family & I have immensely enjoyed eating Sunday lunch with those who were able to attend 1 of the 4 meals. It was intended to get updated information, pictures and for casting "Vision 20/20 – Forward in Faith". What it became for us was a celebration of 20 full years of wonderful ministry. We reminisced about those who had gone before us, the new faces we have come to love, and what the future holds. We are so blessed to have you in our lives, and we thank you for the amazing journey!

As we move forward, let us run our leg of the race that God has set before us. May all who come behind us find us faithful, as we have found those who blazed the trail before us.

In His Grace, Pastor Jeremy

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Q & A

Question: "What proofs did Jesus offer that He was truly God come in human form?"

Answer: First, there was the proof of His perfect life. He could ask, "which of you convicts me of sin?" – and no one could answer.

Second, there was the evidence of His miraculous power. His power was the power of God Almighty.

Third, there was the evidence of fulfilled prophecy. Hundreds of years before His birth the prophets of the Old Testament spoke precisely of His life, death and resurrection.

Fourth, there was the evidence of His resurrection from the dead.

Fifth, there is the proof of changed lives. Christ alone, the divine Son of God, has power to change the human heart, and He does.

Faith in Christ is not a "leap in the dark". It is based on the solid facts of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. We have a solid and sure foundation in Jesus Christ.

D.L. Moody was fond of pointing out that there are three kinds of faith in Jesus Christ: *struggling faith, which is like a man floundering and fearful in deep water; clinging faith, which is like a man hanging to the side of the boat; and resting faith, which finds a man safe inside the boat – strong and secure enough to reach out and help someone else.*

Notice, each man had faith. Each knew the boat was his only hope. But only one had "resting faith". *Only one had discovered he could actually be in the boat – where all he had to do was rest. This is the kind of faith God wants us to have – a faith that trusts Him totally. But sometimes we discover its reality only after we have endured the a struggling or clinging faith. We only realize we can get in the boat when the storm rages, and we cry out to God at the end of ourselves. "Lord, I believe, but help mine unbelief". Overcome the doubt and rest in Him.*

"Come to Me...and I will give you rest". (Matthew 11:28)

Records

| | Sep | Oct | Nov |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|----------|
| Sunday School Average Per Wk | 274 | 264 | 255* |
| AM Worship Average Per Wk | 367 | 355 | 360* |
| PM Worship Average Per Wk | 110 | 142 | 129* |
| Total Income Average Per Wk | \$7,148 | \$7,692 | \$6,858* |

N/A: Not Available

* : Incomplete
Information



"I'd like to get saved. There's just one problem—
I'm terrified of getting baptized."

MAINTENANCE BUILDING FUND TOTAL

As of 11/20/17

\$53,310

Vision 2020 Information:

Seed Goal (\$2,020): MET!!

Faith Goal (\$20,202) Balance: \$1735

WARRIORS FOR CHRIST

“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong”

1 Corinthians 16:13

Luke 2:8-9 – And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night

As you read this newsletter, we probably have less than 30 days of shopping left until Christmas! Wow, where has the time gone? If you are like me, the story of Christ's birth has probably lost some of the luster that it held when we were children. We busy ourselves with preparations for our Christmas gatherings and slowly lose the significance of the events surrounding His birth. Reading of the “decree from Caesar Augustus” that all the world should be registered becomes habit (Luke 2:1). The angels of the “heavenly host which was praising God and saying glory to God in the highest” lose some of their luster (Luke 2:13-14). And, the traditional account of the wise men or magi coming into the house with their treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh may fail to bring amazement (Matthew 2:11). Over time, we have lost the significance of these events. At times, I find I am no longer amazed at how God has fulfilled HIS PLAN! For since the first sin by Adam and Eve, God had HIS PLAN. The first sin required a blood sacrifice for the sinners to be clothed, and God's plan has always been for me, a sinner, to be “clothed in the garments of salvation” (Isaiah 61:10). But HIS PLAN was not to bring a Savior in a way that the world could explain any other way. HIS PLAN could only be the result of a Holy, Sovereign God, and HIS PLAN was not haphazardly put together, but intricately woven together and fulfilled by the Lord. For who else would promise that the “families of the earth shall be blessed” to a old and barren couple of Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 12)? Or announce that this King would be born in the insignificant town of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) which was also of the tribe of Judah, so that Christ would be able to trace His royal lineage to King David (2 Samuel 7:16). We would never have laid out such a plan. But HIS PLAN, from the start, was designed so that only HIS SON could fulfill the prophecies and be born a baby and be the sacrifice for all mankind. So as Christmas quickly approaches, and we find ourselves scrambling to complete the final preparations for our celebrations, join with me as I sit with my family and take a fresh look at the Christmas story. A story of HIS PLAN, which always required HIS SON, to demonstrate HIS LOVE, a love that no one has ever seen before!

Merry Christmas!
John



Warriors for Christ Men's Bible Study

**“Disciplines of a Godly
Man**

Every 1st & 3rd Thursdays

(excluding Dec 21 & Jan 4)

6:00 a.m.— 6:45 a.m.

WARRIORS FOR CHRIST FALL ACTIVITIES

Men & Boys

Pizza & Laser

Tag

Friday night

Jan 19th

6-8 pm

Meet at The Max Arcade located
by the movie theatre in Bolivar
Please sign up on the bulletin



Save the Date!!

Annual marriage retreat

April 20-21, 2018.



Mark the date on your calendar and
find your baby-sitter now!!

Women's Ministry

Consider the Stars:

A Christmas Pondering

- DAWN VADER

In November, I attended the Fresh Grounded Faith Conference in Springfield, MO with a large number of women from our church. We heard mighty testimonies of God's redeeming power. We also were ministered to by a music concert from Keith and Kristyn Getty. The words to a lullaby they sang intrigued me; "...Consider the stars in the sky; Diamond in a ring. Over the Child King..." The theme of the song (and the whole conference) was protection and pointed out the worth of a person over all that God has created. The words to this song tell that the stars in the sky shine out the brightest when it is darkest--"...in every anguish, Oh child take courage..."

The Christmas story in Matthew 1 begins with the genealogy of Jesus. Verse 17 summarizes the genealogy into three categories: from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; from David to the Babylonian deportation are fourteen generations and from the Babylonian deportation to the Messiah, fourteen generations. A perfect ring split into three sections of fourteen generations. Each of these sections denotes a promise that God has made with man.

God used the stars in the sky to explain His promise to Abraham. In Genesis 22, is the testing of Abraham's faith is tested and his commitment to be willing to offer Isaac at God's command. After being tested, he is told that God will greatly bless him and He will greatly multiply his descendants like the stars of the heavens (v.17). Verse 18 says, "Through your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have heard *and* obeyed My voice." Do you see in these verses that the Creator of the stars is the only One who can provide the redemption of the nations?

Fourteen generations later, because King David was a man after God's heart, God promises in 2 Samuel 7:16, "Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before Me; your throne will be established forever." David, who had made grave mistakes in his past was promised redemption, a promise of a forever kingdom from the Creator of the world.

In the next generations we find, Isaiah 54:5 "For your husband is your Maker, The LORD of hosts is His name; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, Who is called the God of the whole earth." Here is the promise again to the nation of Israel that continually rejected God's commandments, and as a result were deported as slaves to serve a time in Babylonia, a pagan nation. Your Creator is your Redeemer.

At the close of the last fourteen generations, is the Messiah. Matthew 1:23 tells that they will call His name, Immanuel--God with us. Creator God with us, sent to be our Redeemer. Born under the stars, in the darkest of times, to shine the brightest, like the Getty's sing a "...Diamond in a ring..."

Christmas is a time to celebrate the Creator of your life as the Redeemer of your soul. Look for ways that you can share, uniquely, what God has done in your life. Believing God to be the Creator is the only way to be able to have faith in Him as Redeemer. God's Word points that out, showing the truth of that statement every time we are in His Word. Celebrate His creativity at Christmas time by turning to the Word and sharing with others His awesome revelation.

His Masterpiece

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10

Trip to the
Stained Glass Theatre
in Ozark MO.

March 10th
Showtime 2:30

Tickets
\$9 for ladies
\$5 for girls under 12

Look for a sign-up sheet on the main
bulletin board coming in the new
year.

Knowing God by Name: A Personal Encounter

Worship God for who He says He is through
some of His many names given in scripture.

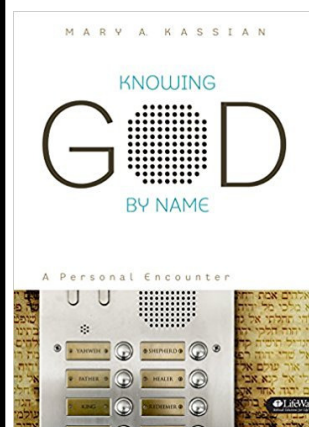
Bible Study

8 Sessions Starts Jan 16th

Tuesday Mornings

8:30 am-10:15 am

Breakfast, Study & childcare



Sign-up on
the main
board for
childcare &
book (\$10)