



A Great Place To Grow in Christ
For the Entire Family

December 23, 2018

This Weeks Events

Today:

10:00AM: (Grange)—*1 Corinthians*—Pastor
 11:00AM: (Grange)—*Bible Reading*—(*John Chapter 7:37-53*)—Rev. Wasilausky
 —*Dedication of Levi Coale*—Pastor
 —*Message—Sweet Baby Jesus*—Pastor
 6:00PM: (Grange)—*NO EVENING SERVICE*—Pastor

Upcoming Events

Jan 6, 2018

2:00PM: (Fir Lane)—*Shut In Saints*—Matthew Coale

Jan 13, 2018

NOON: (Grange)—*Church Business Meeting*—Pastor



“All the Christmas presents in the world are worth nothing without the presence of Christ.” - David Jeremiah

DON'T BE LEFT OUT! Get on the Grace Baptist Church "notification list," use your cell phone to send the word: **GBCLIST** in a text message to **84576**. You can Opt-out at any time.



Children's Church and nursery services are available for every service.

Modern Day Shepherds



By Ron Coale
Hardly does it seem like Christmas of old anymore. I mean the Christmas celebrations of the late “50’s” and “60’s” that I remember. Back then, there was a spirit of love and joy that could be felt in the whole community at Christmas time. Christmas really had something to do about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Everyone knows that Christmas has become more commercialized than ever before. People make their Christmas plans in July; black Friday sales happen sooner every year; people say “Happy Holidays” to each other instead of “Merry Christmas” because they are afraid of offending someone. The world sure has changed. Even though the world has slowly transformed into a self-serving mob of uninformed cliques, Jesus has not changed. He is the same as He always was (Heb. 13:8). So, if things have changed, it is not because of Him. It is because of us.

We have come a long way from the shepherds seeing Jesus on the day of His birth (Luke 2:15-16). They got excited about Christmas. They were so overjoyed that they ran around telling everybody about Jesus (Luke 2:17). Today

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Wordless Christmas Tree

Merry Christmas! Every year, people all over the world get ready for Christmas by putting up a Tree and decorating it. They buy presents and wrap them in pretty papers and put them under their Christmas Tree. But, do you know why Christmas is celebrated and what the Tree and the presents mean? Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let’s take a closer look at His story.

A long time ago, an angel appeared to a virgin named Mary in the land Israel. Luke 1:30-32 *“And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest...”* At the birth of the Son of God, a star shone above where He lay for all to see. A star is put on the top of the Tree to represent this majestic star. Some wise men from the East followed this star to where the Son of God lay. Matthew 2:9-11 *“...and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was...And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him...”* God had a special plan for His Son, who left His royal throne in heaven to become man in order to bring salvation to all men.

The colors on the Tree have special meaning which tell His story.

- White represents Jesus’ purity and sinlessness because only the Son of

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people have a hard time relating to, or getting excited about a baby being born in a barn, let alone turning the town upside down telling everyone about it. We can't relate to shepherds at all. So, as the human society has changed over the years, we can't relate to the exciting part of Christmas: EMANUEL—God with us!

Is there blame to be placed anywhere? Should we break from the world and feign excitement like the Shepherds had? NO! We should not, because we cannot. We can only do the best that we can to elevate and celebrate the birth of Jesus. We will never be like the Shepherds were, nor should we try. We are different people living in a different time. So, what do we do in light of this time that we live, coated in the commercialism we see? We elevate the Lord in our lives through a careful meditation and prayer, thanking Him for coming to save us.

Questions are a good way to do this. "Lord, why did you come when you knew that we were going to kill you anyway?" "Lord, why did you choose to be born in a barn?" "Lord why did you choose Mary to carry you in her womb?" Etc.

I am sure you can see where prayerfully asking the Lord these types of questions can lead to a mind centered on Him. When your mind is centered on Christ, it will be torn from the commercialism, politics and revelry of today. Imagine the answers that

God would give you to your questions. The activity of communing with God is the goal that will bring Him back into your Christmas.

We must not feel defeated because we do not have Christmas like that of old. Times have changed. We do not need to accept the worlds degradation into selfishness. We must remember that ...in the last days perilous times shall come. ²For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. ² Timothy 3:1-5 As the Shepherds were living in the first days, we are living in the last days. The Christmas the Shepherds experienced was that of the first days of Christ on earth. Our Christmas experience is that which rests in the shadow of the last days. So, we must think of it in such a light.

The exciting part of Christmas is that the imminent return of Jesus looms in the near future. If a person is right with God, that is an exciting thought. Although the worlds leverage has degraded Christmas into a meaningless "family" time, it is not. We can use it as a holiday to look for the second coming of our Lord. ~

God was born without a sinful nature.

- Black represents sin which brings death. Romans 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death...”* Every man is a sinner by nature, so without intervention, everyone will die and go to Hell (Orange is the color that represents the torturing fires of Hell).
- Red represents the blood of the Lord Jesus. The shedding of blood is the only payment for sin, and only the pure blood of the Son of God could pay the sin debt for all mankind.
- The brown branches on the Tree represent the tree upon which Jesus was crucified. After His death, His body was placed in a tomb and sealed. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 *“...that Christ died for our sins ...And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day...”* On the third day, Jesus Christ rose victorious over sin and death. By rising from the dead, He conquered death that He might give life.
- The green branches of the Tree represent life. Because Jesus now lives, so can we. What is the gift that God offers to man? Romans 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* The gift which God offers us is life, which we can receive through Jesus Christ.
- The gifts under the Tree represent the precious GIFT which Jesus extends to all. If we accept the gift of eternal life, we will live with the Lord Jesus in heaven forever.
- Yellow is the color on the Tree that represents heaven.

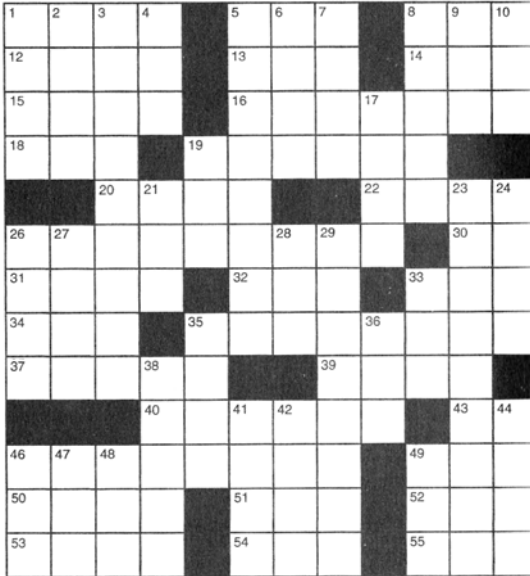
What about YOU? You and I and every person in the world are sinners by nature. Sin causes death which means that without intervention, you will die and go to Hell. However, the good news is that the Lord Jesus paid the price for your sin and now offers YOU the gift of life, which is known as salvation!

You can be saved from your sins! Will you accept the gift? What a great tragedy it would be for you to choose to spend eternity in Hell separated from the Lord Jesus who paid such a high price for you!

If you are serious about receiving God's gift, then you can tell God directly by praying a prayer like this one to Him and He will save you:

Dear God, I see that Your Son the Lord Jesus Christ has paid a high price for me. I'm a sinner on my way to Hell. I don't deserve Your gift, but I ask You to save me. Thank You, God, for saving me. Amen.





ACROSS CLUES

1. And now abideth faith, _____, charity. (1 Cor. 13:13)
5. He is _____ the God of the dead. (Mark 12:27)
8. Jesus attended a wedding here. 12. So be it.
13. Physician's group (abbr.).
14. And he took one of his _____. (Gen. 2:21)
15. Behold, I _____ you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves. (Matt. 10:16)
16. The wife of Moses.
18. High explosive (for short).
19. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the _____. (Gen. 1:2)
20. Pitcher.
22. Bone (prefix).
26. He came to Jesus by night.
30. The sixth captain...was _____. (1 Chron. 27:9)
31. Having their conscience seared with a hot _____. (1 Tim. 4:2)
32. _____ Pan Alley.
33. Send out.
34. _____ Cruces, New Mexico.
35. Religious sect of Jesus' day.
37. _____ ye in at the strait gate. (Matt. 7:13)
39. Praise him for his mighty _____. (Ps. 150:2)
40. Experience again.
43. Female sibling (for short).
46. It is your Father's good _____ to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:32)

49. For if we believe that Jesus died and _____ again. (1 Thes. 4:14)
50. Belonging to Adam's wife.
51. Feel ill.
52. Prophetic sign.
53. Floor covering.
54. Uncle Sam's sailing vessel (abbr.).
55. Undesirable plant.

DOWN CLUES

1. Thou _____ the words of eternal life. (John 6:68)
2. Sign.
3. The apostles received the Holy Ghost on this day.
4. For Christ is the _____ of the law. (Rom. 10:4)
5. Jesus' hometown.
6. Leave out.
7. Record.
8. For the preaching of the _____ is to them that perish foolishness. (1 Cor. 1:18)
9. Foxes have holes, and birds of the _____ have nests. (Luke 9:58)
10. National Basketball Association.
11. Common tree.
17. Aces (for short).
19. Marry.
21. Was victorious.
23. In the latter _____ shall depart from the faith. (1 Tim. 4:1; 2 words)

24. A Great Lake.
25. Cereal grass (pl.).
26. Egyptian river.
27. It borders Iraq.
28. Soldier unaccounted for.
29. Solves a mystery.
33. Founded (abbr.).
35. Company overseer (abbr.).
36. He casteth forth his _____ like morsels. (Ps. 147:17)
38. Expunge.
41. Hawaiian feast.
42. Eye part.
44. _____ men as trees, walking. (Mark 8:24)
45. Here I am; _____ me. (Isa. 6)
46. House cat.
47. 56 (Roman numeral).
48. Scaleless fish.
49. Propel a boat manually.



Answers from last weeks puzzle

Puzzle 47



PRAYER REQUESTS

607.	Pastor	Souls saved in Shelton.
680.	Matt	Savings Account (Building fund) to reach —(\$10,000).
763.	Sally	Brother Nathan called to preach. Strength & direction.
849.	Sally	Jonny seeks God's will in making decisions for future.
973.	Dee	Protection for Stephanie working as a nurse.
1013.	Duane K.	Ben's Salvation.
1030.	Machen	6 year old Azreal's brain tumor surgery.
1034.	Sally	Mr. Johnson recovery from stroke.
1038.	Machin	Ariel Marrero diagnosis for cause of pain.
1039.	Duane	Azriel's comfort/strength for undergoing chemo.
1040.	Pastor	Judy Carr's quick healing from back surgery.
1041.	Duane K.	Jordan will see God's presence during the rough times he is in.
1042.	Pastor	Michael, whom I witnessed to, mother would recover from stroke.
1043.	Pastor	2 Jehovah's Witness, whom I witnessed to would see the error of their "gospel" and get saved.



Luke 2:16-17... 16And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. 17And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

In the new year, often people make goals for themselves called resolutions. Christians often make goals to read their Bible through in the year. I would like to help you with that. If you follow the plan I will put in each weeks bulletin, at the end of next year, you will have read your bible through. Just check off the readings you have done to keep track.

Bible Reading Plan

- Jan 1....Genesis 1,2
- Jan 2....Genesis 3-5
- Jan 3....Genesis 6-9
- Jan 4....Genesis 10,11
- Jan 5....Genesis 12-15
- Jan 6....Genesis 16-19
- Jan 7....Genesis 20-22

