

The Trumpet

“The trumpet shall sound...and we shall be changed”
(I Corinthians 15:52)



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Pastor’s Pen

There is a song written by Dottie Rambo titled *If That Isn’t Love*. Read closely the following portion of the lyrics;

He left the splendor of heaven, knowing His destiny was the lonely hill of Golgotha, There to lay down His life for me.

And if that isn't love...Then the ocean is dry. There're no stars in the sky and the little sparrows can't fly. Yeah, if that isn't love...Then heaven's a myth. There's no feeling like this, if that isn't love

Now compare that to the following citation by Philip Yancey in his book, *The Jesus I Never Knew*. He states:

Queen Elizabeth II visited the United States, and reporters delighted in spelling out the logistics involved: her four thousand pounds of luggage included two outfits for every occasion, a mourning outfit in case someone died, forty (40) pints of plasma, and white kid-leather toilet seat covers. She brought along her own hairdresser, two valets, and a host of other attendants. A brief visit of royalty to a foreign country can easily cost twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000.00).

I can’t really figure why so much money, and such a large entourage is needed for “royalty” to travel to a foreign country. Perhaps to draw attention to themselves. The King of Glory didn’t come to draw attention to himself but rather to direct us

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to God. Jesus did not bring with him a boat load of money or a bus full of personal attendants. The King of Kings visited this earth and at his birth, there was no place to lay the newborn baby except in a feed trough, in a barn. We read in **Luke 2:1-11**, “*And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed... And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is*

called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

He left the splendor of heaven knowing Calvary was his destiny. In this Christmas season praise God for Christ Jesus.

In Christian love,
Pastor Jim Gregory

Ushers Ministry

We are always in need of members to agree to serve as ushers. If we have enough men they will only be obligated to serve one Sunday a month, and our gratitude will be expressed each and every Sunday.

At this time we are sitting good, but we anticipate two men currently serving to be transferred due to military commitments. Please contact Dave Ellis if you are interested in serving the Lord in this capacity at 208-590-3577.



Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry formed by Franklin Graham that takes Christmas gifts and the Gospel to underprivileged children all over the world. We are collecting items to fill shoeboxes in November. Each month we will highlight a different item to bring in. But, please remember we will take all types of donations at any time! For December please pray for the boxes that have been sent, especially that the Lord will use them to bring children to faith in Christ.



PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

APOLOGETICS - FROM BOB NEUBAUER

Reasons for the Incarnation

We would all like simple answers to our questions. We tend to think that there should just be one reason for things that happen, but often this is not the case. Here are some of the reasons the second person of the Trinity became a man.

1. To confirm the promises of God. The Old Testament is filled with these promises. In Genesis 3:15 we read of God's first promise of a Messiah. *"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."* This is called the proto-evangelion because it does not give us everything but does prophetically give us the essentials and looks forward to a full presentation of the gospel. Isaiah 9:6 reads, "For a child shall be born to us, a son will be given to us" and 7:14 says "Behold a virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and she shall call His name Immanuel." One thing to notice with the Lord's promises is that He determines when they will be fulfilled. So for example Jesus said that all the Father gives Him will come to Him and He will raise them up on the last day (John 6:37-39). That is the reason as Peter tells us that Christ has not yet returned (II Peter 3:9).

2. To redeem the creation. Romans 8:19-22 reads, For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. When Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden not only did mankind fall but all of creation went into a fallen state. That is the reason we have thorns and thistles and insects that attack us and many other things we all could name. Certainly, the main reason for Christ's coming is to deal with our sin but it is not the only reason.

3. To redeem a people for His name. *Unto you is born this day a Savior which is Christ the Lord.* This glorious proclamation was made to the shepherds by an angel. Throughout redemptive history God has always had a redeemed people. Sometimes the number was few, sometimes many. Within the nation of Israel the number varied over time, but it was always some, as the Lord said to Elijah He had 7000 that had not bowed the knee to Baal. At the founding of the United States many people were believers because of the great awakening that took place in the 1740's. Sadly today while there are still many Christians the number

is far smaller than just a few decades ago. Nevertheless Jesus Christ is still building His church. The rate at which it is built is not always the same, sometimes there is decline and sometimes a great harvest but in the end Jesus will gather all those that are His - John 6:37 "*All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out*".

4. To satisfy God's justice. God's justice required a sacrifice which was perfect and of like kind to the offenders. That is to say that the blood of bulls and goats could never take away sin (Heb. 10:4) but merely cover it on a temporary basis. The entire Old Testament system was never meant to assuage God but to keep judgment from being imposed until the Savior would come. Of course, Jesus was born at the exact right time. For Christ to have come either before or after the time He did would have been wrong. God's timing for the Lord's arrival was as it always is with everything perfect. And Jesus alone was the perfect sacrifice because He never sinned. He was therefore the spotless lamb the Father required.

5. To display God's attributes of justice and mercy. When on the judgment day in eternity unbelievers are condemned for all eternity to the lake of fire His perfect justice will be displayed. At the same time God's mercy will be shown in the extension of mercy to His people. The Lord would have been perfectly just if He sent every person to hell, His perfect justice would have been shown for there is no person who has any goodness in himself or herself save for Jesus Christ. All our righteousness the scripture says is as filthy rags. Yet the Lord also desired to show His mercy. But that mercy could not mean that the justice that was demanded by our sin could simply be overlooked. Therefore, a way had to be found to satisfy God's justice while at the same time extending mercy. The second person of the Trinity was born in Bethlehem so that He could live a life without sin and then offer it in the place of unjust sinners satisfying the justice of God while at the same time extending mercy.

6. To reveal the trinity. While there are allusions to the trinity in the Old Testament it is not clearly spelled out. You could ask any Jew before Jesus came if God was triune and you would get an emphatic no. One man has put it this way, "The trinity was revealed between the Old and New Testaments." Jesus demonstrated that He was God by the miracles he performed, healing the sick, feeding the five thousand, turning water into wine and by His raising of the dead. One of the most glorious verses in scripture is John 1:1, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*. It is a verse that is uncomplicated in its structure yet utterly profound. While even a child can understand it the greatest theologians will never plumb its depths.

This year at the celebration of our Savior's birth may we consider the many reasons He came and rejoice even more.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC

- 4 Deacon/FMP Dinner (5:30 p.m.)**
- 9 Ladies' Christmas Party (6:30 p.m.)**
- 12 Church Business Meeting (5:30 p.m.)**
- 20-31 Christmas Break - No Awana No MDO
Limited Office Hours**
- 24 Christmas Eve**
- 25 Christmas**
- 31 New Year's Eve**

Intercession

What does it mean to intercede? Often believers talk about intercessory prayer. Usually what they mean by this is praying earnestly for someone or something. But the word intercede means to take the place of someone. So, we read in Romans 8:26-27, *"In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the heart knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."* And in Romans 8:34 the scripture says, *"who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus, it is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us."* All Christians still sin and so when the Devil accuses us before the Father the Son intercedes for us, because He took our place, He took our sin. If you intercede for someone who is sick, you ask God to give you their sickness. This is something that is extremely difficult to do. There is a huge difference between saying the words and actually meaning them, and if you do God may well put their sickness on you. Has anyone ever truly interceded for someone else? Most likely, yes, but this is a rare thing.

NOMINATING NEWS

The Nominating Committee serves the church by recommending people to fill the vacancies in various committees and ministries. Every year the committee distributes a Ministry Opportunity Survey to help identify where people would like to serve and is used to help complete the volunteer report for the business meeting. Once the report is approved by the church at the October business meeting, it is provided to the various ministry and committee leaders for their action.

The Nominating Committee has completed its report for the upcoming year and was approved, by the church membership, during the October 2021 business meeting. On behalf of the committee, I would like to say thanks to all who are now serving and to everyone who volunteered to serve next year in the various ministries and on the committees of our church. Your dedication and commitment to serving in the church is greatly needed and appreciated.

During the next few months, ministry and committee leaders will have the opportunity to meet and elect the upcoming leader or chairperson for the new year which will start on January 1st, 2022. Once you elect a chairperson or leader, it's very important that you notify Nicole Clark and she in turn will notify Pastor Jim and the Nominating Committee. Then the Nominating Committee will put an information report together for the church body.

If you serve as a ministry or committee leader we value your input and will work with you in filling vacancies throughout the year. As a general rule, leadership positions and certain non-leadership positions, must be filled by church members. You can check with the Nominating Committee if you need guidance in that area.

The goal of the Nominating Committee is to provide every person the opportunity to fully utilize their God given talents and skills to serve in His church. So if you are interested in serving, don't wait until the annual Ministry Opportunity Survey comes around. Notify one of the committee members right away. Our committee members are Sharon Siebenberg, Shannon Crowe, Sarah Gregory, Eric Nagel and Patrick Holt. Special note: Our Pastor recommends to the church membership the persons who will serve on the Nominating Committee every year during the April business meeting. If you are interested in serving or have questions about this committee please let Patrick Holt or Pastor Jim know.

Thanks again and I look forward to serving with you in the coming year.
Lord bless you all, Brother Patrick

Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner



1. So the song is no longer, *Clap your hands all ye people, shout unto God with the voice of triumph - but Wash your hands all ye people.*
2. What was Moses' wife Zippora known as when she'd throw dinner parties? The hostess with the Moses.
3. What did Adam say when he was asked what was his favorite holiday? "It's Christmas, Eve."
4. Why did Boaz hate lying? Because he loved T-Ruth.
5. How are toddlers and those who attempted to build a tower to heaven the same? They both babble.

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

7 Elijah Grohs
7 Samantha Simler
10 Kathleen Payton
13 Roman Grohs
20 Omayya Simler



Happy Birthday

27 Patti Clark
27 Chris Pentico
29 Diane Noland
30 Le Roy Damke

7 Bill & Sue Groom
15 Vincent & Raedena Brooks



29 Eric & Mary Grohs

Early January Birthdays

1 Darlene Artz
2 Garry Harper

4 Lendell Simler
6 Dennisa Lancaster