

Eisenhower Church of Christ

The Rest of The Story

At this time of year the world's attention was turned to the story of the birth of the Christ-child. It is a beautiful and inspiring story that evokes the very best expressions of human nature. Even those who are not consistently religious throughout the year tend to be more so in this season. Many of these same folks give similar attention to a second great celebration, the resurrection of the Lord, in the spring of each year. As moving and sincere as these celebrations are, however, they focus on only two moments in the life of our Lord on the earth. If these are the only parts of the Lord's life to which one gives attention, he is bound to have a skewed view of the Lord. After all, they are only part of the story.

Seeing the Lord only in His birth and His resurrection is like reading the introduction and the next to last chapter to a great novel and then assuming that one knows the novel. We would never do this with a great work of literature, so why would we do so with the greatest story never told at Christmas? It is, in fact, the rest of the story that gives true meaning to the parts that so many people so singly celebrate.

When we open the pages of the New Testament, particularly in the preaching and teaching of the apostles, we discover that the Lord's birth and resurrection took place in order to accomplish God's greatest purpose. That purpose was the redemption of mankind from their sins. When the Lord came to the house of Zacchaeus, He said, ***"Today salvation has come to this house, because, He, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost"*** (Luke 19:9-10)

Later, when Paul wrote his letter to the church in Ephesus, he proclaimed that redemption was indeed the focal point of the Lord's coming to the earth. In Ephesians 1:8-10 he said, ***"In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the mystery of His Will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth."*** This declaration echoed Peter's statement in Acts 4:12 that there is salvation in no other name but the name of Jesus.

This is the most important aspect of the Lord's life on the earth. He came to fulfill God's eternal purpose, and He could only do this as the full-grown, mature, adult man who willingly gave His life as the atoning sacrifice on the cross. As beautiful as the baby Jesus is, He had to grow up into the obedient Son of God in order to accomplish our salvation. Although, we do not intend it, we dishonor our Lord by focusing solely upon Him as the baby in the manger. Obviously He had to be born in order to accomplish God's purpose, but He also had to live a sinless life as an adult man in order to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins. In addition to this, He has been appointed by God to judge the world in righteousness (Acts 17:31). He Himself said that His Word will judge us at the last day (John 12:48). In 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 Paul said that when the Lord returns at the end of time He will deal out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel.

This, then, is the rest of the story which began with the birth of a baby two thousand years ago. To properly honor Jesus, we must let Him be what God sent Him to be; that is, our Lord and Savior by our obedience to the gospel. Jesus is both Lord and Christ, as Peter said in Acts 2:36. Therefore, let us honor Him as such, in accordance with the rest of the story.

—Fred Dominguez

Prayer Request

LaDonna Chism is requesting prayers for the mother of one of her co-teachers. She has COPD and is in the hospital with severe pneumonia. Please keep her in your prayers

Remember to keep **Mary Brown** in your prayers as she is dealing with severe pain in her neck. Please pray that Mary gets some relief soon.

Paxton Basaldua (Devida's grandson) had to be taken to the Urgent Care Center in San Antonio because of a high temperature. He was diagnosed with the flu and given prescribed medication. Paxton's temperature went down. He had an appointment to see his doctor in Odessa Wednesday, December 28th.

Concerns Update

Jack Wright was moved from ICU to Room #942. He had an MRI on his pancreas and gall bladder Tuesday, December 27th. Jack is improving, but still has difficulty with his breathing.

John Cole is still at ORMC—Room #411. He has improved somewhat but is still fighting some health issues. John was diagnosed with C. diff which is very infectious. It is suggested no visitors at this time. He will go to rehab when released from the hospital.

Cynthia Schultz (friend of LaDonna Chism) who was bitten by a spider a few weeks ago has run into some complications. Her spider bite has stopped healing which could cause a more serious problem. We need to keep Cynthia in our prayers that the bite will resume its healing process.

Prayer List

David Alaniz; Lee Roy Bell, Betty Branson; Mary Brown; Bill Bundick; Mitchell Bundick; Sissy Bundick; Betty Burns; Crystal Card; Glynn Chandler; John Cole; Barbara Crowder; Ruby Davis; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; John Ford; Shane Ford; Melida Frazier; Jane Gibbons; Hattie Gilmore; Maria Guzman; Anna Groves; Lon Howard; Charles Jones; Janis Laminack; Connie Lowe; Elder & Glenna McCarty; Juan & Estella Morolez; Rudy Ochoa; Trina Plyler; Ivan Rigsby; Lester Savoy; Cynthia Schulze; Andrew Schwarz; Janelle Shirley; Brenda Simmons; Charles Simmons; John Tessendorf; Marilyn Upshaw; James Weaver; Judy Wells; Lisa Wells; Ann Wilson; John Wood; Jack Wright; Toya Zambelli.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Ruby Davis; Roberta Hamil; Janice Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Maxine Newton; Janelle Shirley; and Lester Whisenant.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

Who was the husband of Priscilla?

Last Week's Bible Quiz answer...

A goat carried the sins of the people into the wilderness. This ritual was named "The scapegoat".

Events

Watch "***In Search of the Lord's Way***" every Sunday morning at 7:00 am on KWES TV 9, (New West 9)

Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the "**Speaking the Truth in Love**" program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

Thank You

To all of the ladies who put together the gift bags with all the goody snacks. We have really enjoyed them and thought about you every time we have tried a new one. May God bless you all for your goodness and your desire to be pleasing unto your Lord. We both love you and know that the church could not function the way it does without ladies like you all.

Love you,

Bill and Mary Brown

Office News

The "**New Mexico Children's Home**" will be back in Odessa March 7th, 2017. They are requesting **Apple Cider Vinegar and plain Vinegar**. Monetary donations also accepted.

Remember the "**Friday Night Bible Class**" that meets in the annex at 6:30 pm on the 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month. The next class is **January 13th**. Finger foods are okay. We are studying from the book "Beyond Baptism".

STF Group#1 will pick up cards in the library this morning following our Service.

Food for thought...

Fear freezes but faith thaws.

Worrying about past events is like squeezing toothpaste back into the tube.

January 1, 2017

	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Larry May	Larry May
Song Leader	Rudy Ochoa	Jacob Carson
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Larry May	Larry May
Scripture	Josh Weakland	Dylan Straw
Second Prayer	Bill Butler	George Warren
Closing Prayer	Cody Wesson	Trinidad Wood
Lord's Supper West...	Craig Wesson Tom Sorenson Dylan Straw	Richard Siler Communion (In Library)
East...	Dex Dennard Jr. Munoz Bill Tolbert	

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Larry May 638-3990 *Deacon:* Don Easlon 288-5834 *Pulpit:* Richard Siler 362-1392 *Table:* Chris Butler 362-7486 *Song Leaders:* Denny Wilson 325-340-2291 *Recording Duties:* Tommy Garcia 638-2702 **Collections:** Tommy Garcia 638-2702

Sunday AM

“What Does the Resurrection Declare?”

(Romans 1:1-4)

Sunday PM

“Winning the Battle Over Worry.”

(Matthew 6:25-34)

Our Records

Bible Class... 48

Morning Worship...146

Evening Worship...76

Wednesday...77

Contribution...\$3,896.25