

SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS

[by Pastor Pier]

A man received a car as a Christmas present from his brother. When he left his office that Christmas Eve, he saw a homeless boy walking around the shiny new car and looking at it in awe.

“Is this your car, sir?” the boy asked. The man nodded. “My brother gave it to me as a Christmas present.” The boy looked amazed. “You mean your brother gave it to you and it didn’t cost you anything? I would like to...” the boy hesitated.

The man imagined what the boy was going to say: that he would like to have a brother like that. But what the boy actually said shook the man from head to toe: “I wish I could be a brother like that.”

The man looked at the boy in amazement, and thought to ask him: “Would you like to take the car for a ride?” “Of course! I would love to!” After a short ride, the boy turned and, with sparkling eyes, said to the man: “Sir, would it be too much to ask you to drive past my house?”

The man smiled. He thought he knew what the boy wanted. He probably wanted to show his neighbors that he could get home in a big car. But again, the man was wrong. “Can you stop where those two steps are?”

The boy ran up, and after a while the man heard him coming back, but not as fast as he had left. He was carrying his crippled little brother. As soon as he had him settled on the first step, he pointed to the car.

“See it? There it is, just like I told you, up there. His brother gave it to him for Christmas, and it didn’t cost him a cent. Someday I’m going to give you one just like it... Then you can see for yourself all the pretty things in the Christmas windows that I’ve been trying to tell you about.”

The man got out of the car and lifted the sick little brother into the front seat. The older brother, his eyes shining, climbed in behind him, and the three of them began an unforgettable Christmas drive.¹

That Christmas Eve, the man understood the true meaning of the words of the apostle Paul, who in turn recalled the words of our Lord Jesus Christ in Acts 20:32-35:

I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the Words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’¹

Jesus Is Born!

December 22nd, 2024



“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so they can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way.”

SERVICES

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
Unity in Prayer & Youth: 6:00 – 7:00 PM
Wednesday – Bible Study: 7:00 PM; Kid’s Club
Prayer ½ hour before services

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Wednesday Bible Study – we continue our study of the Rapture of the church.

Flagging Class – Wednesdays, at 6:00 PM prior to our Bible study. Special thanks to all the participants of this praise ministry.

Midweek Bible Study – December 25th, Christmas Day will be cancelled so all can enjoy celebrating Jesus' Birthday together.

New Year's Eve Service – December 31st, Tuesday night at 10:00 PM. We will be celebrating Communion as the new year starts.

Rev. Bill Pier Jr., Campus Pastor

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SERMON NOTES

CHRISTMAS – A MANIFESTATION 2ND PART

TEXT: 1 John 3:5; 2 Corinthians 4:1-2

I. LIGHT IS KEY!

II. THE UNSAVED ARE TOUCHED BY THE LIGHT

III. MANIFESTATIONS _____ LIKE MANIFESTATIONS

Dad is to be the _____ in the home.

The Eli priesthood ministers to people "in the _____ of their idols" – Ezekiel 44:7, 12 (NIV)

These priests actually put God's people at _____ about their sin.

Our homes are meant to be _____ sanctuaries, where the Lord is _____ . Deuteronomy 7:26

But if we're not _____ what our children take in, we're not manifesting Christ to them.

Our God wants to make us living, breathing _____ to the world. Ezekiel 44:13

IV. WE ARE A LAST DAY _____ – Revelation 1:6; 2 Corinthians 4:1-2

Paul says manifesting Christ involves renouncing all hidden _____ and secret _____ .

Minister "*sharath*" means to _____ on or _____ , and to _____ . Ezekiel 44:15-16

1. The "*fat*" represents the _____ part of an offering. Leviticus 3:16-17

We _____ to the Lord every time we put Him _____ .

2. The "*blood*" Ezekiel speaks of represents a _____ that's _____ to God.

It means _____ consecration, the yielding of our whole lives. _____ our bodies as living sacrifices, and _____ on Christ's blood as our victory. Romans 12:1-2