

A TIME OF REFLECTION

[Pastor Gene Henderson edited by Pastor Pier]

As we discussed last Sunday in our message “*After Christmas*”, kudos to Joseph who decided that Mary and their little Baby needed a break before making the trek up through the Judean hills back to Nazareth in Galilee. He finds them a place to stay and uses the skills of his trade to take care of his new family. For the people of Bethlehem, it’s just another baby born to a young couple displaced by the Romans. To Joseph and Mary, everything has categorically changed. The angelic visits nine months ago might have been a fading memory except for the constant care of this little One. It’s a whole new life for all three of them. And a whole new mission for all the angels in Heaven.

For the angels, it’s a whole new era. What the young family in Bethlehem only hopes, they know for certain. **God’s audacious plan is about to change their world.** In thirty-three revolutions of this blue planet, that little Baby will stare into the face of humanity’s great enemy and eviscerate both death and hell. Thirty-three years later, faith in this little Baby will spread like a fire through the known world. 300 years later the mighty Roman empire that crucified that little Baby will bow before His Name. 2,000 years later 33% of the population of this blue planet will call themselves by this Baby’s Name. 100% of the world will call Him the greatest prophet and teacher in the history of mankind.

The angels’ job did not end in Bethlehem. Whether it was Michael, or under Michael’s direction or God Himself, a star caught the attention of some astronomers from the East. They came to Bethlehem to honor Joseph’s and Mary’s little Baby. An angel warned them about Herod. Another angel invaded Joseph’s dreams again and warned him about the impending danger. The gifts of the visiting scholars provided the resources Joseph needed to care for his family for several years.

What’s new with you? Is this just another holiday season which has ended? Or are you ready to save the world? **The world needs saving and you’re on the team. Let’s go in obedience!** Matthew 28:18-20 (New Living Translation):

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Welcome!

January 15th, 2023



“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: 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Wednesday – Bible Study: 7:00 PM; & Kid’s Club

SERMON NOTES

A GREAT DISMISSAL

TEXT: Philippians 3:12-16

I. _____ – verse 13

- A. Humans are very special beings, in that God has given us the ability to _____!
- B. He could have walked around all his life with this tremendous _____ crippling him!
- C. Our greatest glory is not in ever _____, but in _____ every time we fall! Jeremiah 31:34

II. _____ – verse 14

- A. Paul's number one _____ was the Kingdom of Heaven!
- B. Big _____ – Matthew 6:33
- C. God's _____ a priority in life.

III. _____ – verse 13

- A. Paul is functioning in the _____!

It is “_____.” The fact is, “someday” will _____ come!

- B. _____ each day as if it were your _____!
- C. Do not squander _____, for that is the stuff that _____ is made of.

“The leading _____ for a man of every calling is _____; never put _____ until tomorrow what you can do today.” Acts 24:25; Psalm 119:60

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Wednesday Bible Study – John 17. Come as we learn how Jesus prays for His own.

Kid's Club & Youth in the basement, learning about the Lord.

Flagging Practice – will be suspended until further notice.

Women's Group will be meeting again January 20th from 6 PM to 8 PM. Please come and join us. We will be having our missed Christmas Party on that date. Please bring the gift you had prepared for the December party that was snowed out, along with the food that you prepared and signed up for. You can consult the signup sheet in the foyer for a reminder.

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