



Northside Church of Christ

2500 Parrish Street, Waco, TX 76705

Building a community of Faith, Hope and Love; Where people meet Jesus and learn to walk with Him.

Schedule of Services: Bible Class 9:30am; AM Worship 10:30; PM Worship 6:00; PM Wednesday 6:00

Date: Sunday, December 24, 2017

The Birth and Childhood of Jesus (Part 1)

People disagree over the “most” important part of worship. Is it communion, the sermon, the singing? Each element makes up the whole of God’s intentions for praise and service. What is most important in the story of Jesus? Is it the crucifixion, the resurrection, His ministry and teaching? Every aspect is necessary to understand His eternal impact. For useful application, it’s best to start at the beginning and focus on key factors surrounding the arrival and early life of Jesus: prophecies, dreams, visitors, names, and descriptions (Matthew 1:18-2:23; Luke 1:26-56; 2).

Prophecies

Prophecies reach into the past confirming the Messiah’s identity. Does this baby fit the relevant prophecies referenced by the scribes?

The Virgin Birth (Matthew 1:22-23; Isaiah 7:14)

The virgin birth would have topped the list. It would be difficult to fake considering Jewish methods of proving virginity (Deuteronomy 22:13-29). Mary’s character could have been questioned, but why would Joseph risk his reputation had he not seen the vision? The Holy Spirit’s involvement provides a divine witness and Joseph’s dream was perfectly timed to avoid a divorce and make sure she stayed a virgin until giving birth. He practiced uncharacteristic self-control because he fully believed.

If we deny the virgin birth, we deny inspiration of scripture. If we deny “the Word became flesh” (John 1:14), we destroy the essential deity of our savior. If Jesus wasn’t conceived of the Holy Spirit, what would His death accomplish? If we deny this we render subsequent miracles powerless, including the resurrection. The great power of this sign is only God could make it possible (Luke 1:37).

Herod had an impressive historical research department and when the wise men came searching for the “king of the Jews,” he became invested in ousting the potential threat. Bethlehem was a town of little consequence other than being the city of David! The potential problem is that Joseph lived in Nazareth. Circumstances didn’t just “fall in place” for this couple to travel to Bethlehem, due to a census calling each man to his Hometown, on a particular night when no lodging was available except a manger!

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It would be difficult to accept Him as Messiah because his family returned to Nazareth after a trip to Egypt to avoid Herod's jealous killing spree. However, discerning eyes can see God supplying the timing, knowledge, and providence. Why would God hide His chosen ruler like this? Only reading the rest of the Gospels can fully answer that, but it wasn't yet His time.

Out of Egypt (Matthew 2:15; Hosea 11:1)

God sent a messenger telling Joseph to flee Herod's onslaught. He gave specific instructions to go to Egypt to fulfill another prophecy that proved the accuracy of Jesus's identity. It proved connection with God Himself: in Hosea's prophecy God speaks of love for His children. Jesus birth and early childhood harken back to Israel's innocence and dependence before they turned to idolatry. Jesus was called out of Egypt like Moses, but He would save them from slavery to sin.

A Weeping Voice (Matthew 2:17-18; Jeremiah 31:15)

Herod used the census information to commit mass murder, not unlike that of another evil King, Pharaoh of Egypt. Rachel was still weeping for her children who, centuries later, never had a chance of coming to faith in Christ, their brother. Mourning is the only appropriate reaction to this travesty further revealing the imminent need for the Messiah.

Called a Nazarene (Matthew 2:23)

Scholars debate the specific meaning, but one can see the theme connecting the rejected, suffering nature of the Messiah to Nazareth, the hometown of Jesus. Factoring in Nathaniel's reaction makes it especially relevant: "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46)

Not only does Jesus fulfill specific references but he fits the thematic trend, or personality of the anointed, but rejected ruler seen throughout the Old Testament. Only a being of great power and insight could bring this outcome. If this was merely academic that point wouldn't matter but there are eternal implications for believers.

Dreams and Visitors

The gospel authors describe vivid, specific dreams, not murky, misty imagery to be misinterpreted by Freudian followers. These were short, pointed, purposeful interactions with God's messengers.

Joseph (Matthew 1:20; 2:13; 2:19-23)

Joseph had four such encounters and quickly believed due to the Holy Spirit's involvement. He was assured of Mary's fidelity and chose to keep his promise. Based on the dream's accuracy he fled to Egypt and awaited more instructions. They came by the same method and Joseph lead his family first toward Bethlehem, then detouring to Nazareth, God's intended destination. Going through such a process would reinforce that God's hand is ever present.

(Thoughts from Chris Wheat)

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SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the Minchew family and friends for the passing of Darla Minchew.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Kathy Mitchell, Jerry Mitchell's daughter-in-law, Surgery was postponed because of complications.

Glendene Acock, Bill Acock's mother, fell and broke her ankle in 2 places. She is in rehab in Florida.

Jerry Duggan, former member, is on hospice care at Hillcrest Hospital.

Dennis Jones, Pete Commander's brother in law, had a mass taken off his brain Monday, December 18th.

Lion Rankin broken his arm. The whole family needs prayers.

Jesse Overby, Gale Cogliati's cousin, passed away Tuesday, December 19th.

Anita Carter is better and will be going to her daughters for Christmas.

PRAY FOR

➤ Danny Paschal, Ever Johnson, Larry Havard, Sr. Joyce Ross, Cotton & Charlotte Lindloff; Arthur Mae Maloy; Shela Havard, Lottie Washington. David Banda, Dick & Barbra Decker, Ed Fields (cancer) David Anderson (cancer) Karen Freyer (cancer), Bea Stewart, Sherlynn Erwin, Kathy Mitchell, Karen McKenzie (brain tumor) Glenda Tynes (cancer) Wendell Davis (cancer) Ronnie McDaniel (health issues) Nita Wingate (cancer) Kim Bond (cancer) Leo Kirkland, Jessica Tomlinson, James Lewis, Ronnie Branstetter (cancer), Emma Greenawalt, Eve Rasberry, Gene & Bobbie Southerland, Betty Mars, Horace Litton, Jane & Sam Munn, Allison Whited, Jackson Pratkan, Charlotte Griffin, Von Ben, Lorene Allen, Tyran Williams, Donna Blahuta, Karen Weaver, Joe Cook (cancer), Joyce Cunningham (cancer), Dixie Frost, Kim Bledsoe (cancer) Tommy Cross (cancer), Sherril Polansky (cancer).

OUR SHUT-INS

The Atrium of Bellmead Betty Johnson, Ruby & Billy Evans

Ridgecrest Gladys Snyder

Lake Shore Estates Eugenia Olson

OTHER NEWS

No evening services tonight.

New Years Eve game night after evening worship. Bring games, sandwiches and finger foods.

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Joyce Ross (30th)

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 25th FAC reserved for Markwardts.

December 31st New Years Eve game night after evening worship. Bring sandwiches and finger foods.

January 1st FAC reserved for Dolores Davis.

January 12th - 14th Winterfest in Arlington, TX.

January 13th FAC reserved for Lana Richardson.

January 20th FAC reserved for Shela.

January 27th FAC reserved for Shela.

February 4th Pot Luck after morning worship. No evening services.

February 14th - 18th Marriage Retreat in Pigeon Forge, TN.

February 16th - 18th Winterfest in Gatlinburg, TN.

March 25th Pot Luck after morning worship.

April 5th - 7th FAC reserved for garage sale.

April 21st FAC reserved to Eastern Star (Donald Holland)

Children ages 2-7 are invited to the front of the auditorium during the singing of Jesus Loves Me



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10:30 Assembly

Welcome

Song Order:

Prayer: Grover Summers

Song Order:

738 – Take the Name of Jesus With You
382 – Why Did My Savior Come to Earth

Communion:

Truman Burrow Charlie Scott
Karl Helpert Nelson Moore

Song Order:

“Jesus Loves Me”

Children go to the front of the auditorium.

Song Order:

Sermon by Chris Wheat

“Your Son Lives”

(Outline on second page of bulletin)

Invitation Song

(Opportunity for responses to the message)

Closing Prayer: Randy Eubank

**If you are visiting with us we extend you a warm
welcome!**

	<u>Week of Dec 17</u>	<u>Monthly Average</u>
Bible Class	<u>52</u>	<u>59</u>
AM Worship	<u>92</u>	<u>96</u>
PM Worship	<u>38</u>	<u>32</u>
Wednesday PM	<u>21</u>	<u>49</u>
Contribution	<u>\$4728</u>	<u>\$3321</u>

Northside Leadership

Elders

Phil Bancale
Chris Borland
Aubrey Minchew
Nelson Moore

Deacons

Truman Burrow
Randy Eubank
Karl Helpert

Minister

Chris Wheat
806-216-0342

Worship Leader

Chris Borland
254-495-5508

Please let the church office know any news or information you would like to see in the newsletter.

You can email, fax, phone or write your information. Visit our website

www.northsidewaco.org

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Words of Wisdom



I like the dreams of the future better than the
history of the past.