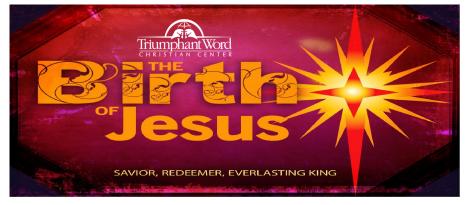
Church Announcements and Events:



ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK:

- <u>Wednesday Night December 26th @ 7pm:</u> we will conclude our Teaching Series on the "Name of Jesus". Are you using the Name of Jesus in prayer or spiritual combat? Do you know what the Believer has in the Name of Jesus?
- Join us this <u>Thursday, Morning @ 9:30am for Corporate Prayer</u>. We will pray our <u>TWCC Church Petition</u> for next year 2019. Come and add your faith and your agreement together with us on the behalf of the Church to believe and receive wonderful things from God for 2019. Let's pray together in Jesus' Name!
- Prayerfully consider giving your faith and if your able your extra finances to the <u>TWCC Christmas List</u> for the end of the year and beginning of year Church needs. Thank you for your extravagant generosity!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2019:

- ⇒ Starting <u>Sunday Mornings January 6th, 2019</u> (at 9:15am 9:45am): School of Ministry Leadership. These are special training classes and sessions for Ministry of Helps leaders, team members and volunteers. You're invited to join us in communicating, calibrating and connecting about <u>VISION</u>, <u>PROCESS</u> and <u>PEO-PLE</u> to plan and prepare to achieve our ministry goals and objectives in 2019.
- ⇒ Wednesdays: "SERVING GOD" Join and partner with us for a New Year New Series on "Getting a Grip on the Basics of SERVING GOD". We invite Christians of all ages to engage in (1) getting a big picture of Who and Why we SERVE (2) how to tap into God's plan for your life (3) how to find your place in the Body of Christ (4) how to function in the local church and more. Come get your SERVE UP and your SERVE ON to the next level. Come Wednesday Night starting Wednesday, January 2nd, 2019 @ 7:00pm.



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Sunday, December 23rd, 2018

"Welcome To Your Church!"

SERMON NOTES FOR SUNDAY, December 23rd, 2018 SERMON SERIES: "New Born Identity" SERMON TITLE: "Keeping IN Christ at Christmas" Read Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:21 and Luke 2:1 - 21 (NKJV)

- In verses, 1 3 of this passage we just read, Mary and Joseph has to travel nearly 100-miles south from their hometown of Nazareth in order to comply with the emperor's edict, a census taken for the purposes of taxation and conscription. (Conscription is the practice of ordering people by law to serve in the armed forces)
- . Centuries after King David's birth, Bethlehem ("House of Bread") would also be the birthplace of Jesus. Micah 5:2 (NKJV) - "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah. Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."
- Significantly, this is the town where the eternal Son of God became flesh the Bread of God coming down from Heaven. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, deity invaded humanity, eternity invaded time. and rovalty invaded poverty.
- God chose the least of all cities (Bethlehem) to host the birth of His Son, and He chose the least of society (shepherds) as the first witnesses. Shepherds were considered ceremonially unclean because they invariably had to engage in financial transactions with Gentiles; therefore, they were not allowed to worship in the temple. Neither were they allowed to testify in court, because they were considered unreliable witnesses.
- The angels' message contained three components:

(1) a song of	(glory to God)
(2) a song of	(on earth peace)
(3) a song of	(goodwill toward men

a song of	(goodwill toward men)	
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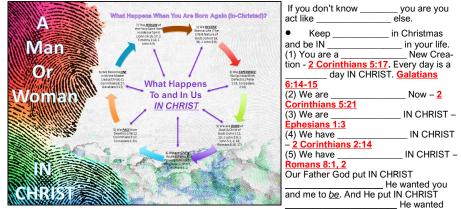
- Why is this so significant of an angelic announcement and that is relevant today? Friends this season, this message of the gospel and this scenario reminds us that humanity is no longer at odds and at enmity with Almighty God; God's Son has torn down those barriers! Read Matthew 2:1 - 11 (NKJV) BEAUTIFUL GIVING AND THE GIFTS FROM THE WISE MEN:
- During the Christmas season, much is said about . "For God so loved the world that He gave..." (John 3:16) is perhaps the most profound and sublime statement in all the Scripture. Jesus gave and completely of Himself, and thank God that He did. We have life today- eternal life and abundant life- because of how He
- motivated by genuine love (not from compulsion, guilt, pressure, manipula-Giving from the tion, etc.) energizes both givers and recipients, and expresses the beauty of grace.
 - When Christ was born _____ was given so we might _____ in Him!
 - _____ came down that we might be - When Christ was born in Him!
 - When Jesus came and was born to die for us, we take that our redemption
- and salvation was completed in Him!
- The wise men were seeking the one who was "born King of the Jews." It was customary in that day that no one approach the king without offering him a gift. When the wise men were summoned by King Herod, even though he was in his royal palace, in his royal garments, there is no indication that they were impressed or offered him gifts.
- The wise men were preoccupied with finding the One they sought. Jesus had been born in Bethlehem (literally, The House of Bread). Jesus later called Himself: The Bread of Life: The Living Bread: The Bread Which Came Down From Heaven
 - They not only offered Him gifts, but they worshipped Him as well.
- ____ and at the right _ _____ <u>Ga</u>latians 4:4 Christ came at the right to the right (NLT) - "But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law."
- The Lord Jesus Christ is the gift that ON GIVING! Jesus Christ is the gift of God and gift of love! His Birth signifies ultimate to all people!
- We must _ _ by bringing Christ into our daily living: Time; Christ in context at Place and Conditions.
- We are to _ in Christ and we are to ____ ____ like Christ! Matthew 2:11 (NKJV) - "And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshipped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Have you ever stopped to think of the significance of these gifts?
- Let's examine these gifts a little closer, but I want to be careful not to over-spiritualize matters and try to make everything symbolic. On the other hand, though, it would seem that these three gifts - gold, frankincense, and myrrh - speak of three major aspects of what this child would accomplish.

- Gifts should reflect something about the

SERMON NOTES (CONTINUED...)

SERMON TITLE: "Keeping IN Christ at Christmas"

- (1) MYRRH was a gift for one who would ______. Among other things, myrrh was a perfume used in embalming and in preparing bodies for the grave. Read John 19:38-40 (NKJV) How ironic that at this time, there would be a reminder that Jesus was born so that He could die. His substitutionary death was predetermined. Jesus is called "The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." (Revelation 13:8)
- . Under the Old Covenant, the priests would offer (2) FRANKINCENSE was a gift suited for a . up frankincense... 1. Along with the sacrifices. 2. At the golden altar of incense in the Holy Place. o When Jesus rose from the dead, He began to function as our great High
- : a precious metal suitable for royalty. The wise men were seeking . (3) GOLD is a gift for a the one who was "Born King of the Jews." Yet Jesus made it clear that His kingdom. "Is not of this world." ARE YOU IN CHRIST THIS CHRISTMAS?
- ٠ We've been discovering and rediscovering that fact that you and I look a whole better _ Christ than outside of Christ. You are either IN Christ or perhaps IN _____. Do you know Who you are and Who you belong to this Christmas Season? Is Jesus the real reason for you this season and every season?
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."



you and me to have. Have the and have the have the , have the that belongs to you IN Christ this Christmas. Let Christ be the Ultimate Gift of love in your life this season and every season. Don't have an crises, stay strong IN Christ!

NOTES:

