

# Greenville Baptist Church

## Newsletter



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December 13, 2021

I have been going through my computer trying to free up some space on the hard drive. It means deleting some of the pictures, documents and anything else that I no longer use. I have come across a couple of old notes that I have forgotten about through the years. One that I have been especially fond of caught my eye again. I think that I first put this together more than 15 years ago as I was preparing a group of messages that I was presenting at a Bible Conference.

At this time of year, looking at Christ's first Advent, I thought this theme was especially important as we look at "why" Jesus came to the earth.

As I recall, I was struck by the many times that in the Bible while referring to Jesus, the phrase "I have come" or "He has come" was used by Jesus and by others as well. I hope that you will look up the references and read them in context go get a good realization of what was being said and why.

Here is the outline that I used. I will make comments at the end.

### Why did Jesus come?

1. He came to fulfill the Law. ([Matthew 5:17-18](#)).
2. He came to seek and save the lost. ([Luke 19:10](#); [1 Timothy 1:15](#)).

3. He came to serve. ([Mark 10:45](#)).
4. He came to give His life in payment for our sins. ([Matthew 20:28](#); [1 John 3:5](#)).
5. He came that we might have abundant life. ([John 10:10](#)).
6. He came to reveal the Father. ([Matthew 11:27](#) ; [John 14:9](#)).
7. He came to separate believers from non-believers. ([Matthew 10:34-36](#)).
8. He came to proclaim truth. ([John 18:37](#)).
9. He came to give us a pattern of holy living. ([1 Peter 2:21](#)).
10. He came to ignite a spiritual fire. ([Luke 12:49](#)).
11. He came to destroy the works of the devil. ([1 John 3:8](#); [Hebrews 2:14-15](#)).
12. He did not come to judge, but He came to bring judgment. ([John 3:17](#); [9:39](#); [12:47](#)).

It is especially good for us to think about the various reasons that Jesus came to this earth the first time as a baby in Bethlehem's manger. We often get caught up with the pageantry and traditions of Christmas and tend to forget that there was much more happening at the First Advent than simply Mary having a baby.

Yes, the Angels, the Shepherds, the Wise Men, Joseph, Herod and all of the other facts about Jesus' birth are important to remember, however, our hearts and minds must realize that He was born for several specific purposes.

It is also important, I think, that we continue certain traditions and celebrations of Christ's birth, as long as it doesn't take away from the truth of the Advent of Christ.

The first Christmas morning that I can recall happened while I was just little boy. I don't remember my age, but I do recall that most of us kids, 5 of us, were sick with something. Dad would call it "the aleegaflaps." Probably mumps or measles....doesn't matter, just sick.

We were all hiding on the pull out sofa under a quilt when we heard a voice quite like Mom's only lower saying, "Ho, Ho, Ho." Dad told us to stay covered up so Santa would not know that we were there.

We could hear packages being put under the tree, then a hearty "Merry Christmas" from the voice again.

It was a joyful time. Full of mystery and fun. Excitement and energy. We threw back to covers to see with much delight all of the presents there just for us.

I don't even remember what I got for Christmas that year, just remember the fun and excitement that was going on.

However, Dad always insisted that we sit and listen to him read the Birth of Christ from Matthew, Luke and John. You can imagine the figgiting going on as we sat and read the Biblical account through 3 books in the Bible concerning the birth of Jesus.

The excitement came when we were told we could open our presents.

As I grow older and watch on Christmas morning and see the grandkids open presents, I am reminded of Dad and Mom. They knew of the excitement of Christmas, but they also knew of the real importance of instructing us kids of Christ's birth. They even went on to tell us the reason Christ was born. That is the real importance here, isn't it?

I hope that this little outline will help you and your family as you contemplate the "real meaning of Christmas." Romans 3 says, "The gift of God is Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Interesting, isn't it, all the gifts that are given and received at Christmas time. We gave so many toys to be distributed by the Bridge Ministry. We put together Advent Bags for use in the Bridge Ministry as well. The women put together Christmas bags for the shut-ins in our little community. We also gave monies to families in need from our Benevolent Fund. You will give and get gifts on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, or both. There are parties that you will attend that have nothing to do with our church, but you will both give and receive gifts. Christmas is a time of gifting.

But, as you know, the greatest gift of all eternity is the gracious gift of God in His Son, Jesus. And in knowing Him, we have eternal life.

May this Christmas be full of gifts for you and your family. But may you enjoy, most of all, the gift of God's grace in Jesus.

Karen and I are so happy and satisfied to spend another year and another Christmas with you, our spiritual family.

May God bless you at this Christmas time. We love you so much.

Merry Christmas!

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Bible Study**

We will continue our study of Timothy the Wednesday December 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Christmas Eve Service**

Candlelight service – 6pm on Christmas Eve

# Prayer Requests

Jack and Karen's Nephew – He is on meds and doing better

Karen – Praise that her wrist is doing better and that she continues to heal. She has started physical therapy.

Brayden Lopez - Mental and Spiritual health

Please remember the Chapdelaine family in the loss of Robert. Pray for Stacy (Rob's Wife) as she is struggling with this loss. Stacy has decided to move back to Montana where her and Robert's family are. Pray for peace during this move.

Debbie Reed – Pray that the Doctors will find the source of her pain

Cliff Reed – As he recovers from a fall over the weekend.

Donna Richardson – Recovering from leg amputation

Lois – Friend of the Rutlands – Fell and hit her head

Please keep Becky and the Medellin family in your prayers for the loss of Juan

Please remember Brittany's family in the loss of Tracy. Please lift up Patty as she supports this family

Ricky Eckert recovering from a leg amputation.

Neal Lampe has come home. Please pray for continued healing

Please remember Linda Fogle and her family in the loss of Rick

Carolyn Cox -Pray for continued healing

Geri Smart's daughter has had her last chemo treatment. Pray for continued healing

Denny's Sister is in need of a Kidney Transplant

Becky's granddaughter Taylor who has Cystic Fibrosis and is having health issues

Oran Lambright, Jack and Karen's friend has come home and is recovering

Ray and Bev Morris - Bev and been diagnosed with Alzheimers

Sandra Pulliam's daughter Candace is having some mental health issues

Bob & Sadie Easley - Health issues - Please remember Bob's family in the loss of his brother

Ed Ehring's sister Julie Robison is suffering from Alzheimer's.

Lee Ehring's brother, Bill Hoot, is having health issues. Doctors have found a mass on his lungs but the biopsy results have not been received yet. He has lost his vision and is unable to talk. Please pray that the Doctors can find out what is happening and how to treat him. He is in a tremendous amount of pain

Vicky Hoffman - legally blind but her eyes are getting worse