



THE GIFT

"Thanks for the electric guitar you gave me this Christmas," young Cody said to his uncle when he saw him following the holidays. "It's the *best* present I ever got."

"That's great," said his uncle. "Are you playing it already?"

"Oh, I don't play it," the little fellow said. "My mom gives me a dollar a day not to play it during the day and my dad gives me five dollars a week not to play it at night."



IT'S IN THE INTERPRETATION!

A bright 8-year-old child was being tested by the Speech Teacher and was given analogies and asked to describe the following differences:

Speech Teacher: "What's the difference between an oak tree and a Christmas tree?"

Child: "One has leaves and the other has needles."

Teacher: "Very good! Now what's the difference between a saucer and a plate?"

Child: "One flies and the other doesn't."



NO SCHOOL

A father was talking to his young son about the best things Christmas offered their family. Of course dad was thinking about the sharing of gifts, the delight of worshipping Jesus' birth and spending time together. The dad asked, "Why do you think we love the Christmas holidays so much?"

The little boy quickly answered, "No school for two whole weeks!"

His dad replied, "I meant for your mother and me, not you."



DIDN'T YOU GET MY EMAIL?

As a little girl climbed onto Santa's lap, Santa asked the usual, "And what would you like for Christmas?"

The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped: "Didn't you get my E-mail?"



FROSTY THE SNOWMAN

Why didn't Frosty go to Church? He had cold feet!



First Baptist Church Strathroy

Where Christ is cherished, family is loved and everyone is family!



GETTING CONNECTED

Publication of...

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"To you is born a Saviour who is Christ the Lord...you will find Him wrapped in swaddling clothes, laying in a manger."

~ Luke 2:11-12

What's inside...

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Where Christ is cherished, family is loved & everyone is family!



Sunday, 11 a.m. Services.

20 Centre Street W., Strathroy, Ontario

Thot: "He looked like anything but a king. His cry, the helpless and piercing cry of a baby. Majesty in the midst of the mundane; divinity entering the world in a stable through the womb of a teenager and in the presence of a carpenter." ~ Max Lucado

This is What Christmas is All About

Christmas to me is a gift from above,
a gift of salvation born of God's love,
For far beyond what my mind comprehends,
My eternal future completely depends.

On that first Christmas night centuries ago
When God sent His Son to the earth below.

For if the Christ child had not been born
There would be no rejoicing on Easter morn,

For only because Christ was born and died
and hung on a cross to be crucified

Can worldly sinners like you and me
be fit to live in eternity.

So, Christmas is more than getting and giving,
it's the why and the wherefore of infinite

living,

It's the positive proof for doubting God never,
for in His kingdom life is forever.

And that is the reason that on Christmas Day
I can only kneel down and prayerfully say,

"Thank you, God, for sending your Son
so when my work on earth is done,

I can look at last on Your holy face,
Knowing You saved me by Your grace!"

~ Helen Steiner Rice

CRYPTIC CHRISTMAS CARD

A man sent his friend a cryptic Christmas card. It said: A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z. The recipient puzzled over it for weeks, finally gave up and wrote asking for an explanation.

He waited weeks before receiving the explanation on a postcard: "No L."



NO ROOM

In the church's nativity play, Joseph and Mary went from home to home, being told "no room". From the back of the room came a loud voice, "You could have booked on-line!" bringing the house down with laughter.



Something to Think About...

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel. (Which means God with us)." ~ Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23.

About 700 years before the events of that first Christmas when Jesus was born, Isaiah announced the birth of a Messiah, a Saviour for humankind from the tyranny that separated us from our Creator, God. The prophet's vision stretched forward through the years from Christ's lowly birth in Bethlehem to His glorious future reign in the New Jerusalem when there will be unspoiled peace under His rule. Despite such clear prophecy, the New Testament reveals that the Jewish expectation of their Messiah was for a conquering Son of David, one who would physically and politically set them free from occupation here on earth. Like Peter said at the time of Jesus' ascension, *"Are you now going to restore the kingdom?"* (Acts 1:6). Even at the end, the apostles still looked for Jesus to restore political power to the Jews. The problem is that the leaders failed to notice the Messianic prophecies which presented a Messiah not as a political or military leader but coming humbly, the *"new Adam"* (1 Corinthians 15:45). And Isaiah's prophecy tells us of the promise of the birth of a child who would sit upon the throne and reign over the eternal kingdom of David. Only a child born in the line of David could fulfill that role.

Of His might and power and authority, God's Word reminds us that *"He emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of man"* (Philippians 2:7). This was the child born to a virgin – a son given to us, *"and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"* (Isaiah 9:6). As future king, a physical descendant of David, Christ would establish a kingdom that lasts forever where *"every knee would bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father"* (Philippians 2:10-11). Jesus has always had divine rights over all of humanity by virtue of His divinity. It was never about political might or

military power but about drawing a wayward people back to God and bringing the Father the glory due His name. The apostle John simply explains it that *"God sent His Son to be the Saviour of the world"* (1 John 4:14). Rather than meeting our expectations for a Saviour, God literally says, *"My ways are not your ways"* in Isaiah 55:8. Why does this matter? Because it was God's way to fulfill the promise of Genesis 3:15, to *"...put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."* And so Jesus came to earth as a baby in order to be the *"offspring of the woman."* Why? To defeat the enemy, Satan, the serpent!

When Adam and Eve sinned and fell, they and all their descendants (that includes you and me) lived under the curse, separating us from God.

This year, as we consider the "true meaning of Christmas", let us refresh our hearts and renew our minds in the wonder of the miracle of Christ coming as a baby born to a virgin. That a virgin would conceive a child is literally 'inconceivable'! (*pun intended*). But it's the answer to why Jesus came to earth, the explanation of what God chose to do to bring His creation back.

God's Word fleshes His plan out for us, *"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."* (Galatians 4:4-5). Jesus came to fulfill the law in our place (Matthew 5:17). He was both the perfect sacrifice for our sin and the perfect fulfillment of the law's righteous requirements because He — in all His divine perfection — came as a human being, born without sin because He was incarnated by the Holy Spirit and not man; born, lived, and died, born as a baby to redeem all of us who were under the curse of the law.

And the wonder of it all is that at the end of the age, Jesus Christ will come again to earth in the fullness of His *"power and with great glory"* (Matthew 24:30). He will sit on His eternal throne and reign in great power and authority (Revelation 11:15-17; 12:10). Hallelujah! to the baby born that first Christmas; to a Saviour, born in Bethlehem. May we too celebrate His birth this Christmas that we may welcome our Saviour into our lives and our homes this year.

Mark Your Calendar!

December 7th – Communion Sunday

December 13th – Men's Breakfast
Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

December 14th – Christmas Tea & Coffee
Godwinks' Café (follows service)

December 24th – 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesdays 1:30 p.m.

Weekly Prayer (FBCS Godwinks' Café)

Message Series...

God's New Way

Come and join us!