

"Together We Strive In 2025"



DECEMBER 2025

FROM THE DESK OF:

GERALD B. COLLINGSWORTH, PASTOR



Pastor & Mrs. C



Misunderstood Christmas



INTRODUCTION: The world turns once a year to the story of Christmas, but to the Christian it is a 52-weeks-a-year truth. Satan loves to get his points in during the Christmas season and leave mistaken impressions in the mind of the world. Let us notice a few of these misunderstandings.

FIRST: WAS JESUS BORN IN BETHLEHEM?

MICAH 5:2

We could never teach this enough. Let us impress upon the minds of every reader that Jesus came to earth in Bethlehem, but He is the eternal Son of God.

1. **He was in the beginning, John 1:1a.**
2. **He was with God, John 1:1b.**
3. **He was God, John 1:1c.** Also read *Isaiah 9:6*.
4. **He became fashioned as a man, Philippians 2:8.**
5. **He simply "camped out on earth" for 33 years, John 1:14.** The word "dwell" here mean: "tabernacled." You will also find reference to His preexistence in *Genesis 3:8; Daniel 3:25; John 1:3; John 17:5; and Revelation 1:17.*

SECOND: WAS JOSEPH JESUS FATHER?

I TIMOTHY 3:16

The devil enjoys hearing parents tell their children that Joseph was the father of Jesus. He is never spoken of as such in the Bible. The Holy Spirit is very careful to use every word properly in showing us this truth.

1. **Joseph was not told Jesus would be his son, Matthew 1:21.** You will notice that the Holy Spirit says to Joseph when announcing the coming of the Christ Child that Mary should bring forth "a" son, not "your" son.
2. **Joseph was not referred to as Jesus' father, Luke 2:33.** You will notice it says, "*And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.*" It did not say, "His father and His mother."
3. **Jesus spoke of God as His Father.** Notice Jesus said, "*I must be about my Father's business.*" Joseph was looking for Jesus, and Jesus was very careful to remind Joseph that He must be about "His" Father's business. God was His Father. Joseph was one of the best men in the Bible, and yet he was definitely not the father of Christ.
4. **Joseph was involved so that Jesus would have legal right to the throne of David, Luke 1:32,33.** The genealogy of Jesus in *Matthew 1:1-16* traces the line of Joseph. The genealogy of Mary is in *Luke 3:23-38.*

THIRD: WHAT ABOUT THE VIRGIN BIRTH?

ISAIAH 7:14

Perhaps no doctrine is attacked more by religious people than the doctrine of the virgin birth of Christ. He was born of a virgin. Let us notice the Scriptural teaching of this matter.

1. **It was prophesied that He would be born of a virgin, Isaiah 7:14.**
2. **The Bible plainly says that Joseph was not the father of Christ, Matthew 1:18.** Mary and Joseph had not yet become husband and wife.
3. **At first Joseph did not even understand and felt that Mary had been unfaithful to him, Matthew 1:19.**

Continued



Wishing You a Merry Christmas.

—Pastor



Toppings: Guacamole, Salsa, Sour cream, Pico de gallo, Cilantro leaves, Lime wedges

Chicken Fajitas Tacos

Nonstick cooking spray
2 tbsp. olive oil
1 tbsp. chili powder
1 tbsp. ground cumin
1 tsp. garlic powder
1 tsp. smoked paprika
3/4 tsp. kosher salt
1/8 tsp. cayenne pepper

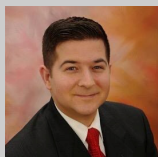
1.5 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into ½-inch-thick strips, or chicken tenderloins
1 medium white onion, halved and sliced
1 medium red bell pepper, cut into ¼-inch strips

1 medium yellow bell pepper, cut into ¼-inch strips
1 large or 2 medium poblano chiles, cut into thin strips
16 6 inch corn or flour tortillas, warmed

Preheat oven to 425°F. Line a 18x13-inch (half-sheet) baking pan with parchment paper or foil. (Lightly coat foil with cooking spray.)

Stir together chili powder, cumin, garlic powder, paprika, salt and cayenne pepper in a large bowl. Add chicken, onion, bell peppers, and poblano; toss to coat. Spread chicken mixture evenly in pan. Roast 20 to 25 minutes or until chicken is done (165°F) and vegetables are tender, stirring once halfway through cooking.

Spoon chicken mixture into warm tortillas and add desired toppings. Serve with lime wedges.



Jarrod
Collingsworth
Choir Director

THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

Luke 2:8-17

In Luke chapter 2, we read of the birth of Christ and we find in this story many wonderful things, but this season I want to discuss the shepherds in field. Many over look them, and that is understandable, but there is a wonderful story to be told and an example to follow.

In these short few verses we read of shepherds who were where they needed to be when they needed to be there. If the shepherds had not been faithful that night to be in the field with the sheep they would have missed the proclamation from the angels, they would have missed the opportunity to see Jesus in a manger.

They probably would have even missed their opportunity to be listed in the scriptures.

We also read of shepherds who would investigate the truth. We see that shepherds were told of Jesus in a manger, but like most today they did not say they were too busy to investigate. These shepherds stopped what they were doing and went and saw where Jesus laid in a manger.

We also read that the shepherds did the most important thing that night. They took the message of Christ's birth and proclaimed it abroad. They did not hold these truths in their hearts, but shared it with others. They were responsible for starting the fire that proclaimed the birth of Christ.

Will you be faithful like the shepherds this Christmas season? Will you make sure it is Christ's birth that is proclaimed? Will you help others understand that Jesus is the Reason for the Season?

4. **The angel told us of the virgin birth, Matthew 1:20.** The angel clearly stated that the Holy Ghost, not Joseph, is the Father of Jesus.
5. **The word "Emmanuel" here perhaps wraps the Christmas story up in three words better than any other words, Matthew 1:23.** It simply means "God with us." Again the virgin birth is taught.

FOURTH: IS MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD?

ISAIAH 9:6

Not a better lady can be found in the Bible perhaps than Mary. To be sure she was a very clean, virtuous lady and deserves much credit. However, she is never called "the mother of God."

1. **She knew the Saviour, Luke 1:47.** This means that she too was a sinner.
2. **She was a woman of low estate, not of high estate, Luke 1:48.**
3. **John 2:4 explains Jesus' feeling toward the matter.**
4. **Mary was not the only woman called "blessed among women." Judges 5:24.** It is interesting how tradition slips into Christianity.

CONCLUSION: Nothing is more important to stress than that Jesus is the preexistent Son of God. He was not the son of Joseph; He did not just come into existence in Bethlehem; He was born of a virgin; and Mary was simply the instrument used to bring His body into the world. He is the Saviour.

Prayer of Salvation

If you were to die today, are you 100% sure you would go to Heaven?

If not, would you be willing to pray this prayer with me?

"Dear Jesus, I'm asking you to come into my heart and forgive me of my sins. I'm trusting you, Jesus, as my Saviour. Thank you for saving me. Amen." (Romans 10:9 and 10:13)



Prayer of Service

"Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6)



I Love Christmas

"One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it..." Romans 14:5, 6a.

I love the Christmas season. I find great joy in preaching on the Christmas themes of the angels, the shepherds, the manger, the virgin birth, the wise men. I have great joy in the Christmas carols. There is a joyful, happy note of worship in our home, and thank God, in my heart, through the Christmastime. I love the gathering together of my loved ones and family for Christmas. I love to give gifts, and I rejoice to be remembered by my loved ones and friends. I love the Christmas season.



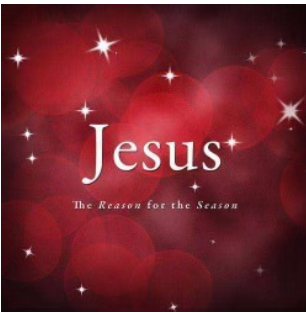
John R. Rice

Perhaps my own feeling is colored somewhat by the fact that for many years, I have been away from home most of the year, but at the Christmas season, when churches and groups of churches do not want revivals, I have been at home with my family. That makes it extra precious to me.

It makes me sad that many people do not enjoy Christmas. Some devoted Christians feel sour, cantankerous, and full of objections about Christmas. To them I would say the words of Scripture, that if you regard the day, regard it unto the Lord. And if you do not regard the day, Christmas, then be sure that you are Christian about it as unto the Lord. But let nobody be judging and criticizing others for honest, worshipful, spiritual, and loving attitudes about Christmas.

Something to “CROW” about!

1. Heritage Baptist Church had someone saved every week for 35 years.
2. Heritage Baptist Church has not closed our Sunday School, Sunday Morning, Sunday Night, or mid-week service in 35 years—including two years of COVID.
3. Heritage Baptist Church will be hosting the 11th Annual “Old-Time Religion” Conference on June 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, 2026.



Five Keys To A Christian Home

1. Give God the first hour of each day (Mark 1:35). Pray in the morning.
2. Give God the first day of the week (I Cor. 16:2). Serve in your church to save your community.
3. Give God the first portion of your income (Prov. 3:9). Keep books on what you give to be sure you do not think you are giving more than you actually are.
4. Give God the first consideration in every decision (Matt. 6:33). This includes your choice of house, close friends, work, church, school, etc.
5. Give God's Son first place in your heart always (II Cor. 8:5). Live in His presence as though He were the Unseen Guest in your house—He is, you know!



From our Pastor's Wife... Mrs. Vida Collingsworth An Old-Fashioned Christmas

I'm so glad to be called old-fashioned. I believe in a one and only old-fashioned Saviour (Jesus Christ). I believe in the old-fashioned Bible, the old King James Bible. I believe in an old-fashioned independent, fundamental Bible-believing Baptist Church. I believe in old-fashioned dress standards and behavior; where ladies still dress like ladies and men still dress like men. Where ladies are still gracious, honorable and submissive in their spirit and where men are leaders in the home and in society. I believe in an old-fashioned family with one mom and one dad. I believe in an old-fashioned Christmas where Jesus is still the reason for the season, where Christ is not crossed out of the word Christmas. Where the Word of God is opened first on Christmas morning as Dad reads the story of Jesus' birth and then the family prays and gives thanks to Jesus, for He is still the one that makes it possible for us to enjoy all the presents and food we share as we celebrate His birthday! I am so glad to be called old-fashioned. I am so glad for an old-fashioned Christmas!!!

Some food for thought ...or...

Seed From The Silo!

CCP FRONT GROUPS OPERATING ALL ACROSS AMERICA

A new investigative report [Breitbart News] has revealed that multiple Chinese Communist Party (CCP)-linked organizations are operating out of a single building in St. Paul, Minnesota, and are engaging in a variety of activities designed to undermine the U.S.

In comments to the Washington Stand, Gordon Chang, author, China expert and distinguished senior fellow at the Gatestone Institute, explained that the Minnesota center is merely one of numerous CCP outposts within the U.S.

Chang further emphasized that, "... we need to locate and close all such points of contact, including China's remaining four consulates..."

"This is our country, and we do not have to put up with this. Our leaders for decades have known of impermissible Chinese activity on our soil but have allowed it to continue. That has to stop. This is on us."

-Dan Hart, Washington Stand

ILLINOIS MANDATES 'MENTAL HEALTH' TESTING FOR ALL STUDENTS

Children's minds are now officially in the crosshairs of one of the most out-of-control state governments in America. Under a controversial new measure just signed into law by far-left Governor J. B. Pritzker, government schools in Illinois will begin mandatory "mental health" testing of all students each year, starting in third grade.

Critics are sounding the alarm. Among other concerns, they are warning that Big Brother cannot be trusted to pry into the minds of children. From education leaders and privacy advocates to psychiatrists and medical professionals, opponents of the plan say it will intrude into the most sensitive areas of a child's life.

While Illinois is the first state to do it with SB 1560, Big Pharma lobbyists hoping to profit from drugging children are working overtime to get similar schemes passed in other jurisdictions.

Harvard-trained psychiatrist Dr. Peter Breggin, celebrated worldwide for his war on quackery such as lobotomies and electro-shock "therapy," sounded the alarm about the Illinois plan as well. Among other concerns, he blasted the collaboration between Big Pharma and organized psychiatry to invade schools and "make a market out of children."

What Kind Of Seed Are **You** Sowing?

A MAN WAS LATE PAYING HIS BILLS AND RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING NOTE: "YOUR ACCOUNT HAS BEEN ON OUR BOOKS FOR OVER A YEAR. WE JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT WE HAVE CARRIED YOU FOR LONGER THAN YOUR MOTHER DID."

SOME PEOPLE ASK THE SECRET TO OUR LONG MARRIAGE. IT'S THIS: WE TAKE TIME TO GO TO A RESTAURANT TWICE A WEEK. A LITTLE CANDLELIGHT, DINNER, SOFT MUSIC AND A SLOW WALK HOME. SHE GOES TUESDAYS, AND I GO FRIDAYS.

A DINER MOTIONED OVER A WAITER AND EXCLAIMED, "THERE IS A HAIR IN MY SOUP!"

"WHAT DID YOU EXPECT FOR THE PRICE?" THE WAITER REPLIED. "AN ENTIRE WIG?"

A MOTORIST SPEEDING DOWN THE ROAD AT 80 MILES AN HOUR WAS STOPPED BY A POLICEMAN. "WAS I DRIVING TOO FAST?" THE MOTORIST ASKED. "HEAVENS, NO," THE POLICEMAN REPLIED. "YOU WERE FLYING TOO LOW."



"I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE THE PLUMBER ALONE."





Dr. Greg
Neal

THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS

Matthew 1:21

We ought to be reminded that Jesus is what makes Christmas, Christmas. It is "Christ"mas. It is interesting that as I have heard many people this week, while I shopped at different stores, say, "Merry Christmas, I have not heard anyone say, "Merry 'Allah'mas," "Merry 'Budah'mas," or "Merry 'Pope'mas." It is Merry Christmas. There are many in this world and society that try to take Christ out of Christmas. They are the real Scrooges. They are the Grinches because without Jesus there is no cause for celebration. Nothing says, "Glad tidings and great cheer" like "X-mas,* right? Oh, it gets the children excited when we say, "We are going to set up a holiday tree and have holiday cookies, and we are going to have holiday ornaments." No. See, without Christ, there is no joy. Without Christ, there is no peace. Without Christ, there is no happiness.

Perhaps we are saved, yet we do not have the joy that we could have. What is missing? I say that it is not having the right relationship with Jesus Christ. Perhaps we used to have joy. If that is the case, I can promise that we used to be a little bit closer to Jesus than we are now.

If we are around our trees at Christmas time and we have a gift under there, that means that somebody in that room loves us very much. They may say, "You should open that gift. I went through great pains to get that for you. I know it is exactly what you want. I know it is exactly what you need. I took the time to wrap it. I even put a pretty bow on it." However, if it sits under that tree and we never get up off the couch to open it, we will never experience what that gift can do for us. It could be there. We could see it. We could know it exists; but if we do not take it out from under that tree, it might as well be sitting on the shelf in the store.

THE FACT THAT HEAD & SHOULDERS DOESN'T HAVE A BODY WASH CALLED KNEES & TOES DISAPPOINTS ME.

Lest We Forget



Frank Curry

Frank Curry's Medal of Honor Citation reads as follows:

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Private Francis Sherman "Frank" Curry, United States Army, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action above and beyond the call of duty. Private Curry was an automatic rifleman with the 3d Platoon, Company K, 3d Battalion, 120th Infantry, 30th Infantry Division, defending a strong point near Malmedy, Belgium, on 21 December 1944, when the enemy launched a powerful attack. Overrunning tank destroyers and antitank guns located near the strong point, German tanks advanced to the 3rd Platoon's position, and, after prolonged fighting, forced the withdrawal of this group to a nearby factory. Sergeant Curry found a bazooka in the building and crossed the street to secure rockets meanwhile enduring intense fire from enemy tanks and hostile infantrymen who had taken up a position at a house a short distance away. In the face of small-arms, machinegun, and artillery fire, he, with a companion, knocked out a tank with one shot. Moving to another position, he observed three Germans in the doorway of an enemy-held house. He killed or wounded all three with his automatic rifle. He emerged from cover and advanced alone to within 50 yards of the house, intent on wrecking it with rockets. Covered by friendly fire, he stood erect, and fired a shot which knocked down half of one wall. While in this forward position, he observed five Americans who had been pinned down for hours by fire from the house and three tanks. Realizing that they could not escape until the enemy tank and infantry guns had been silenced, Sergeant Curry crossed the street to a vehicle, where he procured an armful of antitank grenades. These he launched while under heavy enemy fire, driving the tankmen from the vehicles into the house. He then climbed onto a half-track in full view of the Germans and fired a machinegun at the house. Once again changing his position, he manned another machinegun whose crew had been killed; under his covering fire the five soldiers were able to retire to safety. Deprived of tanks and with heavy infantry casualties, the enemy was forced to withdraw. Through his extensive knowledge of weapons and by his heroic and repeated braving of murderous enemy fire, Sergeant Curry was greatly responsible for inflicting heavy losses in men and material on the enemy, for rescuing five comrades, two of whom were wounded, and for stemming an attack which threatened to flank his battalion's position.

According to a US Army Press Release dated 1945 Curry is quoted as saying "I wanted to stick right through with the fellows. Now that I'm setting foot on American soil again it's going to be a pleasure to get out. I've had all the fighting I want, and I'm lucky to be able to talk to you." Sergeant Curry completes his Army career in "Grand Slam" fashion. He was awarded just about everything there was to be awarded. Besides the Medal of Honor, he was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the Certificate of Merit, and his outfit earned a unit citation, giving him the right to wear the Distinguished Unit Badge. He also wears three battle stars.

Our Statement of Faith

We accept the Holy Scriptures contained in the Old and New Testaments as being the verbally inspired Word of God and being perfectly preserved in the King James 1611 Bible. We do not believe it can be corrected or improved upon in any way. It is the final rule of faith and practice. **Psalm 12:6-7, 1 Peter 1:23**

We believe in the triune God, who is eternally in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Matt. 28:19-20**

We believe in the deity of Christ— His virgin birth, His sinless life, His death for the sins of the world, His bodily resurrection, His exaltation at God's right hand, His personal, imminent, and premillennial return.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 1 Timothy 3:16, Acts 1:11

We believe that all men are sinners and are guilty before God; in need of a Saviour. **Romans 3:23**

We believe that men are born again through faith in Jesus Christ; that they become the children of God, eternally saved; that the Holy Spirit dwells within every believer to guide and help him in his testimony and service.

Acts 16:30-31, Galatians 2:16, Ephesians 1:13, John 10:28

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved in Glory, and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost in hell. We believe that all believers have a responsibility to get the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ into all the world. **John 5:28-29, Luke 16:22-23, Rev. 20:11-15**

We believe that Baptist churches were the first churches of Christianity and that Jesus founded a Baptist church. **John 1:35-37, Acts 1:22**

Baptist Beliefs

Biblical Authority

Autonomy of the Local Church

Priesthood of ALL Believers

Two ordinances - Baptism & Communion

Immersed Church Membership

Soul-liberty

Two officers - Pastors and Deacons

Separation of Church and State

Baptist Heritage

- **John the Baptist**, Exalter of Christ
- **Meno Simons** (1496-1561), Dutch Anabaptist leader
- **Roger Williams** (1603-1683), Founded the first Baptist church in America in Providence, Rhode Island in 1638.
- **John Clarke** (1609-1676) was a Baptist preacher, medical doctor, and co-founder of the colony of Rhode Island. He was a driving force to get religious freedom into the charter of Rhode Island.
- **John Bunyan** (1628-1688), Baptist preacher who wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*
- **Charles Spurgeon** (1834-1892), might be the greatest Baptist pastor in England
- **John Franklyn Norris** (1877-1952), founder of World Baptist Fellowship
- **Jack Frasure Hyles** (1926-2001), 10,000 baptisms per year and might be the greatest Baptist pastor

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