

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

“Twas the Night Before Jesus Came”

By Pastor Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Church, Norton

‘Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house,
Not a person was praying, not one in the house.
The Bibles were left on their shelves without care,
For no one thought Jesus would ever come there.
The children were dressing to crawl into bed,
Not once ever kneeling or bowing their head.
And Mom in her rocker with Baby on her lap
Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.

When out of the east there rose such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet to see what’s the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and lifted the sash!
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here!
With light like the sun sending forth a bright ray
I knew in a moment this was the THE DAY!

The light of His face made me cover my head.
It was Jesus returning just like He’d said.
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.
In the Book of Life which He held in His hand,
Was written the name of every saved man.

He spoke not a word as He searched for my name,
When He said “It’s not here,” my head hung in shame.
The people whose names had been written with love,
He gathered to take to His Father above.
With those who were ready He rose without sound,
While the rest of us were left just standing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too late!

I’d waited too long and thus sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight,
Oh, if only I’d known and been ready tonight!

In the words of this poem the meaning is clear.
The coming of Jesus is now drawing near.
We’ve only one life and when comes our last call,
We’ll all know that the Bible was true... after all.

“Behold, I am coming soon!” -- Jesus, Revelation 22: 12

Waiting to Hear



Life without a mailbox would be pretty lonely. Everybody likes to hear from someone. Why is communication so important to our well-being? Because connecting with others can bring us joy!
To stay connected and up-to-date with what is going on in the lives of our friends and family, we just have to pick up the phone, or write a letter, or send an e-mail. The people in our lives are a source of support and friendship.
What about God? We need divine guidance as much as we need human support. We need to keep in touch with God, too! We can communicate with God by prayer.
Are you waiting to hear from God? Visit your house of worship this week. “The Lord is near to all who call on him...” (Psalm 145:18).

Sunday Malachi 3.1-18	Monday Malachi 4.1-6	Tuesday Mark 1.1-8	Wednesday John 1.19-34	Thursday Isaiah 60.1-22	Friday Zechariah 8.1-23	Saturday Zephaniah 3.8-20
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Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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CrossRoads

THE HEART OF MARY CIRCUMCISED HEART

“A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code...” (Romans 2:28-29)

Circumcision of the spiritual heart has always been on the heart of God. It is not only a New Testament revelation for mankind but found in Old Testament several times. (Jeremiah 4:4; 9:25-26) The Bible is clear on what God can and will do. Deuteronomy 30:6 says, “The Lord your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love Him with all your heart and with all your soul and live.”

Many do not know nor have true Christmas joy because they try to live by outward circumcision, outward showing of religious acts. Christians who have true Christmas joy have revelation and illumination of what the Apostle Paul wrote in Colossians 2:11, “In [Christ they are] circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ.” (Colossians 2:11)

The Holy Spirit takes the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, (Ephesians 6:17) and washes the heart with the written Word. (Ephesians 5:25b) Jesus Christ was born to die so that Christians may have life abundantly. This is enjoyed by accepting Jesus Christ to be both Savior and Lord and by allowing Him to sanctify us as the Holy Spirit brings life to the Written Word of God in our hearts.

Mary was a virgin, representing that which is pure, that heart that is sold out to the will of God and willing to die to self for the purpose of God, a heart hungry for the Lord. Christians who have the heart of Mary know the truth of 2 Corinthians 3:6, “Such a confidence as this is ours through Christ before God... He made us competent as ministers of the new covenant – not of the letter but of the Spirit...” This second greatest benefit of a circumcised heart enables Christians to be competent in our service to Jesus Christ and in everything the Lord calls them to do. Those with the heart of Mary find it said of them as the Bible says of Zechariah and Elizabeth, they “...were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord’s commandments and regulations blamelessly.” (Luke 1:6)

Let Your Heart be Circumcised to Christ!

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