

II Cor. 3:17 -- "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is..."

LIBERTY

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SEEING CHRIST AT CHRISTMAS

Praise the Lord that the joy of
Christmas is not in the day, not in
the trimmings, not in the publicity,
not in the calendar, but in the heart.

DR. JOHN R. RICE

In Days Gone By

On Sept. 17, 1903, the Wright
brothers, Wilbur and Orville,
made their first flight.

I went outside to find a friend
But could not find one there:
I went outside to be a friend
And friends were everywhere!

Ah! 'Tis Heav'n at last!

On the jasper threshold standing,
Like a pilgrim safely landing,
See the strange, bright scenes
expanding.

Ah! 'Tis Heav'n at last!

What a city, what a glory,
Far beyond the fairest story
Of the ages, old and hoary—

Ah! 'Tis Heav'n at last!

Christ Himself the living splendor;
Christ the sunshine, mild and
tender!

Praises to the Lamb we render.

Ah! 'Tis Heav'n at last!

I thank Thee for a daily task to do,
For books that are my ships
with golden wings;
For mighty gifts let others offer
praise—
Lord, I am thanking Thee for
little things.

GUESS MY NAME :

1. I am a plain man, who dwelt in tents. (Gen. 25:27)
2. My mother favored me and helped me to deceive my old father. (Gen. 27:15)
3. After serving Laban for fourteen years, I received Leah and Rachel as wives for my wages. (Gen. 29:30)
4. My favorite wife, Rachel, had a son named Joseph, who became ruler over Egypt. (Gen. 30:24)

SEARCH THE WORD

Details of the Christmas story should be easy to identify. First fill in the blanks; then find and circle the words in the puzzle. They may read in any direction.

N E G I N N R A C O B W
 A S O S D R E H P E H S
 Z N E M E S I W T G U S
 A E P E A C E H I R I M
 R C R S O J L F Y N N Y
 E N D L B E T I S E G R
 T I P A H S Q M A R Y R
 H K U E P U M A G I K H
 R N M L E S O N R O D A
 O A † F S K I G I Z L B
 W R T G O S L E G N A D
 I F T S J E P R H T M N

- 1-2. "_____, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee _____, thy wife" (Matt. 1:20).
3. "... thou shalt call His name _____" (Matt. 1:21).
4. "... there was no room ... in the ____" (Luke 2:7).
5. "And there were in the same country _____ abiding in the field" (Luke 2:8).
6. "Ye shall find the babe ... in a _____" (Luke 2:12).
7. "... _____, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14).
8. "... the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto _____" (Luke 2:15).
9. "... there came _____ from the east" (Matt. 2:1).
10. "... we have seen His _____ in the east" (Matt. 2:2).
- 11-14. "... they presented unto Him _____: _____, and _____, and _____" (Matt. 2:11).

If you missed more than two, get your Bible and read the Christmas story again. Searching the Word will help you capture the true spirit of Christmas.
 — Sharon Kritzman

THE UNIQUE CHRIST

His birth was contrary to the laws of life,
 His death was contrary to the laws of death;
 He had no cornfields or fisheries,
 But He could spread a table for five thousand
 And have bread and fish to spare!
 He walked on no beautiful carpets or velvet rugs;
 But He walked on the waters of the Sea of Galilee,
 And they supported Him!
 When He died, few men mourned,
 But a black crepe was hung over the sun!
 The men trembled not for their sins;
 The earth beneath them
 Shook under the load!
 All nature honored Him!
 Sinners alone rejected Him!
 Corruption could not get hold of His body;
 The soil that had been reddened with His blood
 Could not claim His dust!
 Three years He preached His Gospel;
 He wrote no book,
 And built no house,
 Had no monetary backing;
 But after 2000 years,
 He is the one central Character in human history,
 The pivot around which
 The events of the ages revolve
 And the only Regenerator of the human race!
 Was it merely the Son of Joseph and Mary
 Who crossed the world's horizon 2000 years ago?
 Was it merely human blood
 That was spilled on Calvary's Hill
 For the redemption of sinners?
 What thinking man
 Can keep from exclaiming,
 "My Lord and my God!"

THREE LITTLE WORDS

I cannot find a better word
 More fitting to address you,
 There's no song or poem I ever heard,
 That's sweeter than "God Bless You".

With these three little words I wish you,
 All that Christmas joy possesses,
 For there can truly be no joy,
 Unless indeed God blesses.



I might wish you wealth,
 Or I might wish you health,
 Or that good fortune might caress you.

But wealth might bring you sorrow,
 Or health fail tomorrow,
 So I simply say "God Bless You".

Author Unknown

CHRISTMAS SERMON OUTLINES

The promised Savior

Text: Isaiah 7:14

- I. The Sign
 "The Lord Himself shall give you a sign"
- II. The Son
 "A virgin...shall bear a son"
- III. The Savior
 "And shall call His name Immanuel."

Why God sent His Son

Text: Galatians 4:4

- I. To us
- II. For us
- III. With us
- IV. We might be with Him

Where do you stand?

Text: John 1:11-12

- I. The wise men expected Him (Matthew 2)
- II. The shepherds accepted Him (Luke 2)
- III. The Jews rejected Him (text)
- IV. The innkeeper neglected Him
- V. Pilate washed his hands of Him
- VI. And you?

Wise Men Still Seek Him

Miscellaneous-

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

*STORIES
*EVENTS
*VIEWS
*NEWS



THROUGH A CHILD'S EYES

When the Old Testament was done, they started the New Testament. Jesus was the Star. He was born in a barn in the town of Bethlehem. I wish I had been born in a barn, too, because then, when my mother says to me, "Close the door. Were you born in a barn?" I could say, "As a matter of fact, I was."

Jesus argued a lot with the Chief Priests and Democrats. He had twelve opossums. Most of them were good, but Judas Asparagus was not. He was so bad, they named a really yucky vegetable after him.

Personal News: Our 37th great-grandchild, Clementine Willow, was born on November 29 to her parents Micah and Hannah Dice of Pittsfield, Illinois. Grandparents are Gary and Pam Dice, Baylis, Illinois. She joins her two little brothers, Asher and Leo. My wife Sharon and I now have 19 great-granddaughters and 18 great-grandsons. Another baby is due in February, 2023. -LRD

I THOUGHT I NEEDED A FAVOR

Lord I need a favor... I've not asked of You before. Could You slow down the trouble that's been knocking at my door? I've held the faith, stayed the course and let my fire burn, but now I'm wondering, "Could You give another soul a turn?" Lately, I can't do a thing and have it turn out right. Every day's a battle, every step an uphill fight.

I know I'm not the only one who walks a rocky road. Why, the widow 'cross the street, she carries quite a heavy load. And the man who owns the meat shop closed his business yesterday. He's been diagnosed with cancer and needs treatment right away. There's a couple at the corner store with unshed tears to weep. They lost their son to drugs and now the county pays his keep.

You know... on second thought, my troubles seem so very small. I don't need much of anything, no favor after all. The joy I've known eclipses every tear that I have cried. And even when I feel alone, You never leave my side. Thank You Lord, I'm grateful for this chance we've had to talk. But if You'll please excuse me, I've a blessed road to walk.

Author Unknown