



Richard Hughes, Editor

An outreach of Richard Hughes Ministries, Inc.

The Pen of a Ready Writer

*...I speak of the things which I have made touching the king:
My tongue is the Pen of a Ready Writer (Psalm 45:1).*

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Why Celebrate the Birth of Christ?

Christ's virgin birth (Matthew 1:23, Luke 1:27) was the fulfilment of a promise made to Eve and to Adam from the Garden of Eden: *I will put enmity between thee [Satan] and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel (Genesis 3:15).*

The *Seed* of the woman would be a man, the God-man. As Paul writes: *Without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory (! Timothy 3:16).*

Isaiah gives God's response to King Ahaz when the king refuses to ask God for a sign as to his helping Judah. The prophet declares: *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14).* The prophet continues: *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this (Isaiah 9:6-7).*

The Birth of Christ is the revelation of things kept secret from the foundation of the world (Matthew 13:35), like the inheritance prepared for God's sheep nations (Matthew 25:34) of Christ's thousand year reign (Revelation 20:4) prior to the great White Throne (Revelation 20:11) and prior to the making of a new earth (Revelation 21:1). Those *secrets* included a Gentile bride indwelled by Christ's Spirit (Colossians 1:26-27), a predestination to the physical adoption of children (Ephesians 1:5) for our first trusting the gospel of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:12-14; Romans 8:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; John 11:25-26).

May You Have A Merry Christmas!

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My Favorite Time of the Year

As a child, Christmas was my favorite time of the year. I always looked forward to Christmas because my parents made it special. From the tree trimming, wrapping presents and the time spent in the kitchen with my mother learning to bake all the goodies that I still make today. Those Christmas traditions that I had as a child I have passed on to my two boys; and, now, they are passing them on to their children.

Christmas is not only my favorite time of the year; it is also my busiest.

Sometimes I get all caught up in cleaning the house, trimming the tree, buying just the right gift for my loved ones, wrapping the presents, or cooking all those delicious Christmas favorites! Then, I have to remind myself to slow down. I want to enjoy Christmas and to focus on the real reason why we celebrate Christmas. Now is not the time to fret, or to be weary, nor to be anxious.

When something or someone dampens my joy in the Lord, God's taught me to look to the Scriptures. Among my favorite verses are Psalm 37:7; Galatians 6:9; John 14:27; Philippians 4:6; Colossians 3:23 and 1 Peter 5:7 - *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.* Christmas is a great reminder: God does care. And He has proven His love by His gift!

The Bible Reading Schedule for 2022 Now Available!

Reading and memorizing the Word of God is how we abide in Christ as believers. Our Lord told his disciples, I am the vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now, ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you....He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing....If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you (John 15:1-7).

We are made clean through the word which Jesus has spoken (John 15:3). That word is the gospel of Jesus Christ. As the Lord told Cornelius: Peter...shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved (Acts 11:13b-14). What were Peter's words in the house of Cornelius? Peter said, To him [Jesus] give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins (Acts 10:43). By believing the gospel, we were found "in him".

After salvation (John 15:3), we keep his commandments and do those things that are pleasing in his sight (1 John 3:22). The commandments we keep are, first, to believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ and, second, *to* love one another as he gave us commandment (1 John 3:23). We know what is pleasing in his sight through reading his Word. Order your copy of the 2022 Bible Reading Schedule today!

You may also request copies for your Sunday School class, Bible Study group, family, Church family or friends.