

December 27, 2015



Real Life News & Notes

Patterson Road church of Christ

A Relevant, Serving, Growing Family of Jesus followers

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Did You Get What You Wanted for Christmas?

It has only been a couple of days since Christmas. Maybe it is a bit early for a real accurate assessment, but at some time we may want to ask ourselves, "Did we get what we wanted for Christmas?" Why might this be a good question to consider? Well, first, what we want in life shows a great deal about us. Second, how we react when we *get what we want* or how we react when we *don't get what we want* also shows a lot about us.

Even when we get what we wanted for Christmas we can sometimes still be disappointed or maybe even want more. Or, when we get what we wanted we can praise God and be very thankful. On the other hand, when we don't get what we wanted we can be angry and pout or lash out.

What is Christmas all about anyway? Is it getting stuff? Maybe it is more about getting "the right stuff". What do we learn about God from the birth narratives that can help us understand Christmas better. Below are just four things I think the birth of Jesus shows us about God. By learning about these things we can understand better the true meaning of Christmas.

First, Through Christmas I believe we can learn about God's patience. Matthew 1 contains the human genealogy of Jesus from the time of Abraham, around 2,000 years...that's a long time and a lot of history. Paul wrote, "But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons." (Gal. 4:4,5). Good things take time. Might we all need to be more patient with ourselves and others? Would not patience be a great trait to imitate, a great gift to give your spouse, your children, your parents, those you work with or go to school with? Christmas is about patience.

Second, in Christmas we learn about God's plan. The birth of Jesus was a part of God's patient plan to save man. The angel told Joseph to marry Mary because her son would "save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). This was predicted by Isaiah 750 years before it occurred, "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel-which means, 'God with us'" (Matt. 1:23 quoting Isaiah 7:4). Not only was the **time** was planned, during the fourth great world empire from the time of Daniel, "In the time of those kings," (Daniel 2:44), but the **place** of his birth was planned, "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah...out of you will come a ruler..." (Matt. 2:6 quoting Micah 5:2). God had a plan for the coming of His Son to earth and He also has a plan for the coming of his Son into our lives. Our challenge is to find it and pursue it. Christmas is about God's plan for the world in general and ultimately for us personally.

Third, Christmas is about the power of God. Jesus was born of a virgin. The angel told Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God...for nothing is impossible with God" Luke 1:35,37. That same power of God, the Holy Spirit gives us hope... "Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.' So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir" (Galatians 4:6,7).

Fourth, Christmas is about the provisions of God. Through Jesus God has given us what we really need. "He will save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21)...forgiveness...you need that? I do! "They will call him Immanuel - which means, 'God with us'" (Matt. 1:23)...God's presence...you need that? I do! "I bring you good news of great joy" (Lu. 2:10)...Good news of Great joy...you need that? I do! "peace to men" (Lu. 2:14)...Peace...you need that? I do! Through what began at "Christmas" God provides us with what we all need most.

Did you get what you wanted for Christmas? God gives what we really **need** through "Christmas"...patience...a plan for our lives...power...and provisions.

Thank God for His wonderful gifts through Jesus, John Cooper

Memory Verse For December—Isa 9:6

"for unto us a child is born"

Gathering Today

Feeding on the Word!

This morning our guest speaker is **Nolan Grigsby**. We will be blessed by his humble but powerful words as he opens the Bible to share Jesus with us. Ann and I have known Nolan for many years, way back when his children were little ones. Nolan played Baseball for Mesa State back in the day and works very hard for UPS (If you see him driving around in that big brown truck give him a wave!) Nolan, thank you for letting God speak through you this morning!

Welcome Guests! (Guest WiFi is available)

May you be blessed and encouraged by our simple Christ centered gathering as we sing, pray, commune and feast on the word of God. *If you would like to know more about us go to **grandjunctionchurch.org** and click on the "**About**" tab and then "**What we believe.**"*

For your convenience we have a **nursing/cry room** (with audio) at the back of the auditorium, an **attended nursery** across the hall from the cry room, as well as a **Kid friendly program** during the worship assembly **for ages 3 years to 3rd grade** (we dismiss them just before the sermon). **Thank you for being our Guests this morning!**

Acts of Service...The Face of Jesus

Today we want to thank **Wilma and Ed Seela** (Keri Fleming's parents) for their hands on service in many ways for our church family. **Wilma** is always involved in helping and serving at church activities and she has taken on many of the bulletin boards in our hallways as a project to ensure they are up to date, and "beautified." We see **Ed** a lot around the building as well jumping in, fixing things, providing help with our HVAC system and otherwise serving our church family in practical ways. **Ed and Wilma** travel a lot of the year doing good deeds on the road as they do various service projects, helping other churches and causes with *Sojourners*, including Mountain States Children Home (in Longmont, CO). **Thank you Wilma and Ed for showing us the face of Jesus!**

Love One Another

Homeless Shelter Meal

January 4 (Monday) is our opportunity to prepare and serve the evening meal at the Homeless Shelter on North Ave. Next Sunday (January 3), lasagna trays will be distributed in the foyer for those who prepare and servers should be at the shelter by 4:30 ppm on January 4.

S2S January 14 Event

S2S meeting on January 14 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Ann Clayton, Laurie Wright and Lacy are going to demonstrate healthy food for the new year for young and old.

New Arrival

Parish and Josie Williams have a new baby girl. Genevieve Bella was born Tuesday December 22 at 4 am. At this time other details are unavailable but CONGRATULATIONS to the proud parents.

Meal Train

Here is the link to the "Meal Train" for Josie and Parrish Williams. The Organizer for the **Meal Train** is Mariah Lash (riahrules@yahoo.com). We don't need to initiate a "Care Calendar" for meals, its already being done by Mariah and the "Meal Train." Our church family can go to the below link and sign up to bring a meal from December 26th through January 23rd. Be sure to click on the yellow "Review all instructions" icon. As far as I can tell no passwords are needed.

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/q7km25>

Special Prayer Requests

Please lift the following to God in your prayers. Thank You and God bless.

Pray for safety for all who are traveling for the Christmas and New Year Holidays. Pray for safety to and from their destination.

Pray for the Treu's daughter who had her last chemo treatment for the aggressive cancer she has. The treatments are difficult for her, pray for her comfort and for the chemo to work and rid her of the cancer. Pray for her family also.

Prayers of thanksgiving that Chuck Tourney is feeling better and back with us. Pray that he will continue to get better and back to his normal health once again....and that the treatment in Denver went well and seems to have helped his condition.

Continued prayers are needed for the following who are dealing with recoveries or on going health issues. Bonnie Orr, Reece Norton, Roy Karo, Taylor Lamkin and Taryn Connell & Ron Wilson

Margie Nelson is at home with Thelma Davis, under hospice care. Pray for her and her family. Pray for her comfort and peace as she goes through these last struggles with the cancer she has. Pray for Thelma, for her health and for comfort as she helps care for Margie.

Prayers for Delaney Clements and her family, pray for comfort and peace for both her and her family. Rick Kaufman to overcome his alcoholism and Tyler Johnson, in jail and needs encouragement.

Pray for our nation and those in positions of authority and leadership....that their hearts and minds will be turned back to God so that they can lead in a godly fashion.

Pray for guidance from above for all leaders in our nation and around the world.

Pray for the church and Christians around the world, for strength to stay faithful in the face of severe persecution.

Pray for the military people and their families, the law enforcement, firemen and first responders and all those who serve us in keeping us safe. Pray for their protection and safety and for their families.

Continue to pray for our church family and our leaders here, that we may be about the Lord's business and that we may bring glory to His name in our thoughts, words and actions.

Prayer of thanksgiving and praise to the God of all Grace, who sustains us daily by His love, mercy and grace. Thanksgiving for our hope in Him of Eternity in Heaven.

YOUTH NEWS

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Wednesdays at 6:00 PM Our Youth group will not meet for the next 2 weeks.

HUDDLES

We have huddles planned for **January 3rd, 17th and 31st**. If you would like to host a huddle please contact Keri Fleming at curtiskeri@yahoo.com.

COLORADO CHRISTIAN YOUTH CAMP

Plans and preparation for camp 2016 have already begun. Please pray for camp and mark your calendars for **June 5th - 11th**. The theme this year will be Crazy for God. ***"We will share in all that belongs to Christ, if we trust God just as firmly as when we first believed and are Crazy for God to the end" - Hebrews 3:14***

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God Bless,
Matt Lee (214)554-1253



Patterson Road church of Christ

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For the Record

Dec. 20, 2015

Attendance	280
Contributions	\$7,106.00
Budget	\$6,098.00

Honored to Serve the Lord's Table in December

Craig Roberts
Randy Romkee
Ed Seela
Richard Sisco
Ryan Smith
Bill Tidwell
Eddie Tinkle
Herb Tinkle

Communion Preparation—December

Jan Nelson & Amey Collazo

Communion Table 12/27

Steve Neff

Announcements

Dec.—Scott Ferguson

Sunday Morning Adult Classes—9:00 AM—9:45 AM

Tom Deister	Auditorium
Vince Urbina	103
Young Adult (Under 30)	Room 207

Wednesday Evening Bible Classes 6—7 PM

Doug Clayton	Auditorium
Singing Class	103

Sunday Morning Children's Classes

Cradle Roll—Birth to 2	Nursery
2 & 3 Year Old	104
Pre KK, Kindergarten	205
1st & 2nd Grade	209
3rd thru 5th Grade	208
Middle School	213
High School	203

Wednesday Evening Children's Bible Study

2 & 4 yr. old	104
Kindergarten 1st & 2nd	205
3rd thru 5th Grade	208
All teens meet in	203

Thursday Morning Bible Classes

Thursday Bible School for Pre-Schoolers	9:30 am—1 pm
Ladies Bible Class, starts 9:30 am	207

Sunday Morning Bible Classes Begin at 9 AM
Sunday Morning Fellowship Time 9:45 AM—10:15 AM
Sunday Morning Assembly Begins at 10:15 AM
Wednesday Evening Bible Study Begins at 6 PM