



West Isle

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE MOVIE THAT WILL NEVER BE PRODUCED

There was a popular idea in the 70s and 80s in Christian circles that was rather scary.

Our lives, even as Christians, on the Judgment Day would end by all our thoughts, words, and deeds being revealed to all – as if displayed on a giant movie screen. This would be part of our judgment... having our sins exposed.

I was in Jr. High and High School when I heard talks of this nature. I remember being at a youth group bible study (and at least a few sermons – probably several, as preachers have a tendency to repeat themselves) and the youth leader painting a vivid picture...

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“What if you died tonight in a car crash and were at the judgment seat before God? What if – in that place – everything you ever thought, said, or did was displayed on a screen for everyone to see? Because, in the end, everything you think, do, or say will come to light. It will all be exposed. What do you want to be shown for the whole world to see?”

As you can imagine, it scared the hell out of me and probably every other young person in the room. Even though I had put my faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of my sins when I was seven years old, this thought terrified me. Why?

**I didn't truly understand Christmas.
And neither did those who were teaching these things.**

Why was Jesus born that Christmas day? What does Immanuel – *God with us* – really mean?



For hundreds of years the Israelites had offered up spotless sacrifices. There were two mandatory sacrifices in the Old Testament Law. The first was the sin offering. The purpose of the sin offering was to atone for sin and cleanse from defilement. The other mandatory sacrifice was the trespass offering, and this sacrifice was exclusively a ram. The trespass offering was given as atonement for unintentional sins that required reimbursement to an offended party, and also as a cleansing from defiling sins or physical maladies.

**Countless times,
again and again,
they would offer up
these sacrifices for the
forgiveness of sin.**

Or were they actually for the forgiveness of sin? The writer of Hebrews actually reminds us: “Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.” (Hebrews 10:11) You see, as he also says, “It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.” It is impossible for an animal to pay for the sins of human beings.

What, then, was their purpose? The writer of Hebrews reminds us again: “Those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins.” (Hebrews 11:3) The sacrifices did not bring forgiveness. Rather, they were a reminder that forgiveness was needed. Not only that. But also, a reminder that forgiveness would be provided!

Jesus was born to be that sacrifice. That was the very reason he came to earth.

An animal’s blood was not satisfactory for the forgiveness of the sins of human beings, nor was a human being’s sacrifice sufficient. The price of sin and rebellion against a holy and eternal God is eternal judgment. Nothing this world has to offer can pay that price.

Therefore, only One who is both perfectly human and eternally divine is able to stand in the gap between the judgment of God and the guilt of mankind. Immanuel – God with us.



Isaiah prophecies the One who will represent humanity in this way. (Isaiah 9:6)

**For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Jesus is a child, because he was born a human being of the Virgin Mary. He is the Mighty God, because he was conceived by the Holy Spirit. He is both God and man. He is both immortal and eternal. He alone is capable of offering the suitable sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. That is why the writer of Hebrews says: "But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God... For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary." (Hebrews 10:12,14,18)

A sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary. There is nothing we can do; nothing we are able to do; nothing we have to do. Once I have repented of sin, asked God for forgiveness, and put my trust in Jesus for salvation, all of my sin is forgiven. Every single thing I have ever thought, said, or done or will ever think, say, or do is pardoned.

**There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
(Romans 8:1)**

**As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
(Psalm 103:12)**

The guilt of my sin, the stain of my sin, and the shame of my sin can never touch me again.

There will never be a movie titled, **"Chris' Shame for All to See."** It will never be written. As a matter of fact, that script has been thrown away. It was nailed to the cross as my Savior suffered and died in my place. I am forgiven. Jesus came.

Merry Christmas! We are free!

THE GIFTS OF Christmas

* HOPE * LOVE * JOY * PEACE

Join us for a

A Musical Celebration
of the season

Saturday, December 16, 2023
5:00 - 6:00 pm

13724 Steward Rd
Galveston, TX 77554



presented by West Isle Presbyterian Church



MISSIONS UPDATE

Please pray for our supported missions at the holiday season and the end of the year.

Samer Alaidy: His ministry is spreading the gospel to Muslims and church planting in Germany.

Chris Mancillas: He and his wife have a campus ministry, Chi Alpha, at West Virginia University. They reach out to and disciple college students.

Upward Hope Academy: This is a private, tuition-free high school that provides education to those who need a second chance.

Pregnancy Help Center: This center provides emotional, material and spiritual support, as well as individual counseling for those in need of such services.

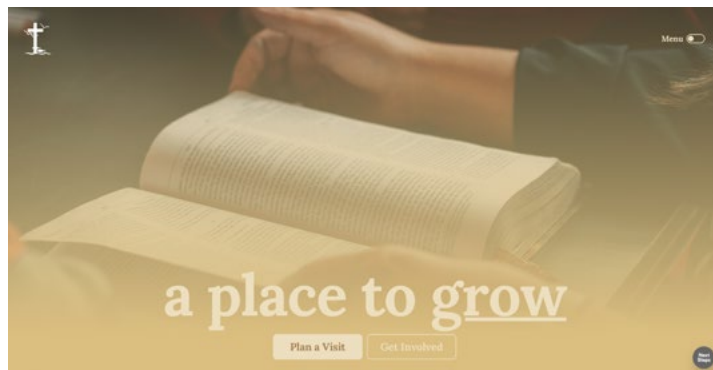
El Calvario Presbyterian Church: This is a small, dynamic church in Waco that ministers to the Hispanic population there.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
(Dec. 24th @ 6:00pm)

West Isle has a new website! Please check it out!

www.westislepres.church



We will be able to connect with you in a number of new and exciting ways and will explain those in the coming months.

Also, along with the new website comes a new way to give. Our previous web host, Clover Sites, has been

providing our online giving services. However, as we are launching our new website, we will also be changing the way you can give online. If you would like to give online for the first time or would like to make the switch to our new platform, just click the QR Code below or go to www.westislepres.church and scroll to the bottom of the page, then click 'Give'.

Though our previous website - www.westislepres.org - will be discontinued after December 31, 2023, it will still be available throughout



the month of December, as will the Clover Sites donations hosting. However, please transition any recurring donations to our new platform by January 1, 2024. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Bower (Pastor) or Chip Fenoglio (Treasurer).

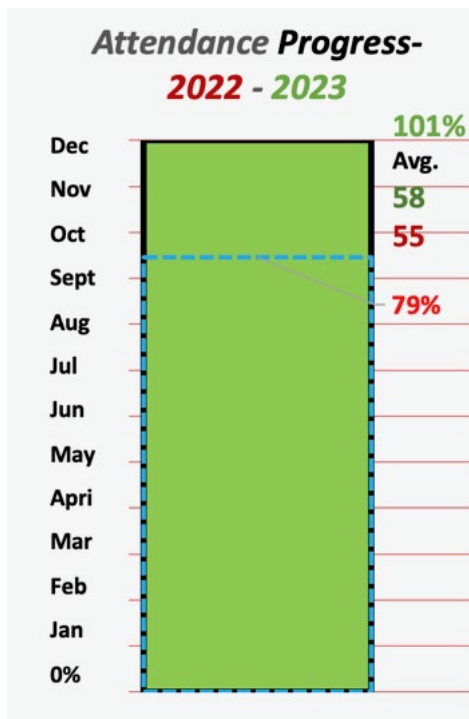
Note: Nucleus Giving does two things that no other online church giving platform does. 1) It doesn't add any of its own processing fees to your gifts, and 2) It charges any banking or card fees to your gift(s) instead of the church. You can learn more about Nucleus Giving here: [The Ultimate Guide To Giving Fees For Churches \[2023 Edition\] - Nucleus Blog](#).

Happening at West Isle Presbyterian

TREASURER'S REPORT

*We are thankful for the generous support received.
Our key financial information for the current month is:*

FY 2023	NOVEMBER	YTD
Monthly Giving	\$18,960	\$184,014
Monthly Expenses	(\$12,979)	(\$178,487)



**Men's Island
Ministry Fellowship**
Thursdays at 8:00 am



Women's Bible Study
Thursdays at 10:30 am



Youth Group
Sundays at 6:00 pm

Cross of the Month

Each month we will feature the story behind a different cross on our beautiful cross wall!



Donated by Dale and Jan Brignac.



West Isle Presbyterian Church

13724 Stewart Rd.
Galveston, TX 77554
409-737-9611

Pastor Chris Bower
chris@westislepres.org

Service Time
Sundays at 10:30am