

TRENTON

BAPTIST CHURCH



TBC FAMILY NEWS

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2024

A Christmas Meditation

Augustine on the Incarnation of Christ

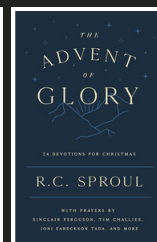
"The Word of the Father, by whom all time was created, was made flesh and was born in time for us. He, without whose divine permission no day completes its course, wished to have one day [set aside] for His human birth. In the bosom of His Father, He existed before all the cycles of ages; born of an earthly Mother, He entered upon the course of the years on this day. The Maker of man became Man that He, Ruler of the stars, might be nourished at the breast; that He, the Bread, might be hungry; that He, the Fountain, might thirst; that He, the Light, might sleep; that He, the Way, might be wearied by the journey; that He, the Truth, might be accused by false witnesses; that He, the Judge of the living and the dead, might be brought to trial by a mortal judge; that He, Justice, might be condemned by the unjust; that He, the Teacher, might be scourged with whips; that He, the Vine, might be crowned with thorns; that He, the Foundation, might be suspended upon a cross; that Strength might be weakened; that He who makes well might be wounded; that Life might die. To endure these and similar indignities for us, to free us, unworthy creatures, He who existed as the Son of God before all ages, without a beginning, deigned to become the Son of Man in these recent years. He did this although He who submitted to such great evils for our sake had done no evil, and although we, who were the recipients of so much good at His hands, had done nothing to merit these benefits. Begotten by the Father, He was not made by the Father; He was made Man in the Mother whom He Himself had made, so that He might exist here for a while, sprung from her who could never and nowhere have existed except through His power."

Family Advent Devotionals:

"Joy To The World" - by John Piper

"The Advent of Glory" - by R.C Sproul

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Mission of the Month

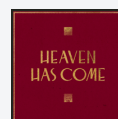
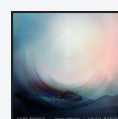


In the summer of 1993, Samaritan's Purse President Franklin Graham received a call from a man in England asking if he'd be willing to fill shoeboxes with gifts for children in Eastern Europe. Franklin agreed, but figured Christmas was months away. He forgot about the promise until he received a call back around Thanksgiving asking about the gifts. Franklin asked his friend, the late Pastor Ross Rhoads of Calvary Church of Charlotte to see if he could help with the need. A Sunday shortly afterward, Pastor Rhoads demonstrated for his congregation how to fill a shoebox with simple gifts and encouraged them to include a letter to the child as well. Within weeks, the church had 11,000 shoeboxes lining their hallways. Samaritan's Purse sent 28,000 shoebox gifts to children in the Balkans that Christmas. Through these gifts, we communicated to children and their families what the angel said to the shepherds about Jesus' birth: "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people" (Luke 2:10). Every year since, Samaritan's Purse has collected shoebox gifts filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for children around the world. Since 1993, more than 220 million children in more than 170 countries and territories have received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. The project delivers not only the joy of what, for many kids, is their first gift ever, but also gives them a tangible expression of God's love. **"Every box is an opportunity to reach a child with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."** - Franklin Graham

Recommended Songs

"Come Behold" - album by Celtic Worship

"Heaven Has Come" - album by Sovereign Grace Music



Born is the King

THEOLOGY FOR LIFE

May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him! For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who have no helper. He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy. Psalm 72:11-13

Psalm 72 is a royal Psalm written by a king himself (Solomon). But Psalm 72 is not a Psalm about King Solomon or King David, no this Psalm is about the King of Kings! But not even Solomon with all his wisdom could have guessed how this King, who had been promised of old would come.... In a no-name stable in a the no-where town of Bethlehem, a no-name girl gave birth to the King whose name is above all names! This little baby was not wrapped in golden threads or the finest linens, but scraps of cheap cloths. He did not come in the fullness of His might, but instead as a helpless baby. He was not known by men although He was their Creator, and He grew up rejected by them although He was their King. But in this manger on that first Christmas night, truly lay the **KING** of Heaven and Earth. And one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is LORD! He is King Indeed!

*"The Son of God, in kindness He came
As a friend to the hopeless, the lost, and the lame
Our sins He bore yet His name we despised
And the hands that brought healing were pierced as He died
The Author of Life, there lifeless He lay
As the grave cast its shadow and darkness reigned
Then out of death broke forth a great light
As He rose up in victory, the glorious Christ"*

Church, we must join with these kings and fall before Christ in worship. We **ARE** the weak and needy who have been saved by our King. Our enemy has been defeated, our chains of slavery have been loosed, our lives have been plucked from the pit, because this **ALL-WORTHY** King died for unworthy sinners like you and I. Oh how we should rejoice at the first coming of our King and even more so in the character of our King who came! "Now let us all with one accord bring praises to our King. All glory, power, and honor be forever unto Him."

Article by Nathan Workman

Upcoming Events

• CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday, December 8th @ 6pm Ms. Dawn and our choir will lead us in worship as we reflect upon the greatest gift given to us that first Christmas night.

• LOTTIE MOON POTLUCK

Wednesday, December 11th @6pm we will have our annual Lottie Moon Christmas offering potluck.

• NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

Sunday, December 15th @6pm families and children can come to TBC and take a step back in time to tour the streets of Bethlehem the night that Christ was born.

• CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Wednesday, December 18th @6pm. Join us as we serve our community with the joy of Christmas carols.

• CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Join us Tuesday, December 24th @6pm for a sweet night of worship as we sing praises about the first coming of our Lord.

KIDS CORNER

(For the Training up of Tiny Theologians)

The Story of the Humble King

What comes to mind when you think of a King? Kings are very important people. They are super rich and they make all the rules which everyone must follow. They are the highest authority in their kingdom. But did you know that all of the kings who have ever lived have a King who rules over them. This King is the King of Kings and everything that exists belongs to Him. There is no one greater than Him. So if kings are important people, can you imagine how important this King of Kings is?? But here's the most amazing thing about this most important King... He came into this world as a helpless baby. You see, this King did not have to be born because He has always lived. But He chose to be born because that's what His people needed. And He wasn't born in the fanciest castle or the most beautiful palace. He was born in a smelly barn full of animals. Important people weren't lined up to meet him, only a few poor shepherds were there to greet him the night that He was born. This King is much different than all the other kings who have ever lived. He is the most important person but He cares about the least important people. Instead of bossing servants around, He served them. Instead of holding on to all His riches, He became poor. Instead of surrounding Himself with the rich and powerful, He ate with the people no one wanted to be around. This King of Kings is Jesus and He is a Humble King. He is a kind and loving King who gave His life for his people even though they did not obey Him or follow Him as king.

Gospel Connection: Jesus suffered in all of these ways for the good of sinners. By dying, Jesus paid the price sinners owed for their sin. By living, He followed all of His rules perfectly because we could not. By raising to life He defeated our greatest enemies (sin and death). Jesus is a King worth following! Trust in Him, love Him, and obey Him.

Questions to ask your children:

Question 1: What does Jesus' birth teach us about God's character? (Answer: He is humble, He is love, He is Holy, etc.)

Question 2: How should Jesus' humility affect the way we live as Christians? (Answer: Read Philippians 2:5-11).

Question 3: When we sin by being selfish, what should we do? (Answer: Ask God to forgive us and to give us a humble heart).