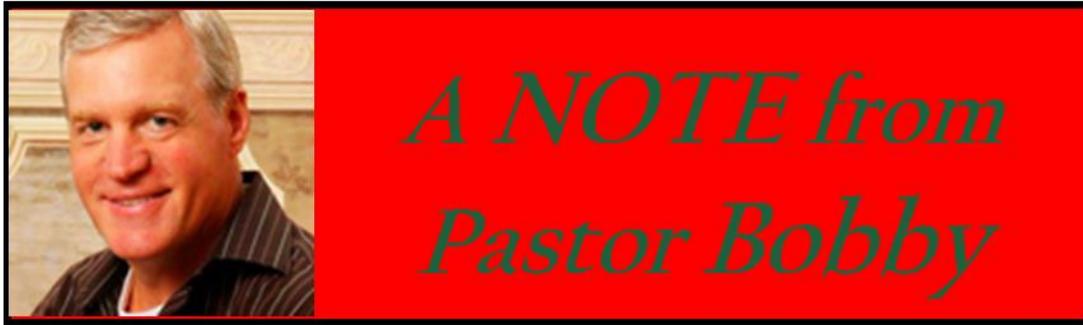


December 19, 2018



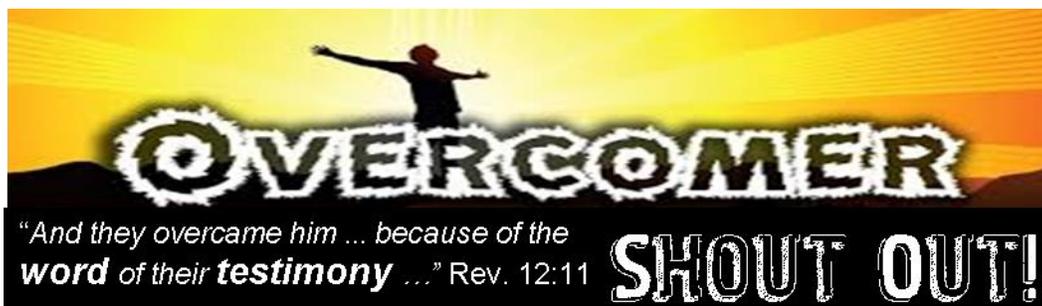
**Comfortable, Cultural, or Christ-Centered Christmas?**

When you think of celebrating a comfortable Christmas what comes to mind? Does it mean you are not rushed? Does it mean you have adequate time with your family? Does it mean when everyone gets together that you all get along? Is celebrating a comfortable Christmas for you about the people, the place, or what you do together? Growing up, I always enjoyed Christmas gatherings with my family. Because we grew up on the farm, we celebrated on Christmas Eve. It often began with a meal together, then we would gather in the living room where the gifts were wrapped and placed around the non-working fireplace. We would recite the biblical account of Jesus' birth from the gospel of Luke by memory and then open gifts. Wanda's Christmas gatherings growing up were not comfortable. At least one of her siblings was always "on the outs" with the family, often having arguments and moments of anger. As a result, Wanda's family Christmas gatherings were never comfortable or anything she looked forward to. I'm sure many who are reading this can relate somewhere between Wanda's childhood family Christmas experience and mine.

We also have in our present day an imposing cultural celebration of Christmas. Does it begin for you on Thanksgiving morning by watching the Macy's parade? Perhaps you celebrate culturally by attending some community event or program or parade that places you "in the spirit" of Christmas. This past Sunday afternoon, Wanda and I attended a concert put on by Winchester Music Viva. It was a two-hour program of traditional Christmas songs sung with two or three different arrangements. That event placed us in the cultural Christmas spirit! Going to see Santa is huge in our culture as well. Since we did not teach our children about Santa, they had no idea what people were talking about when asked about being good for Santa. They would give them blank stares. Generosity is expected at all levels in our culture at Christmas. Bonuses are given from businesses at Christmas. Gifts are distributed, appreciations are expressed, and people generally become nice. It's a cultural expectation.

Perhaps it can be summed up in this poem written by Howard Thurman called, "The Work of Christmas."

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
**The work of Christmas begins:**  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music in the heart.



**Danielle S.** - in 2014 I was diagnosed with breast cancer and had surgery followed by radiation therapy in 2016. Today I am cancer free. I praise God for healing. By His stripes we are healed!

**Matt M.** - We are praising God for providing us with a new home and everyone that helped us move.



**John & Somnia** - Pray for our health.

**Pat A.** - Please continue to pray for my health.

**Sally D.** - Pray for Amy she has been tired, weak, sick, and exhausted.

**Seng Y.** - An offer has been made on Sherry's parents' home. Please pray that the sale will go through with our any issues or complications.

**Shawn H.** - Pray for wisdom, increased faith to lead well in business, community, family and ministry.

**Vicki R.** – My sister Terri passed away last week. Pray for peace and unity for the family during this difficult time especially her husband Robert and three children.

# Upcoming Events



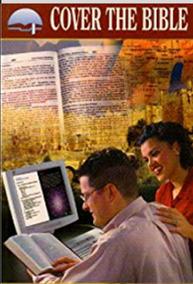
## First Sunday Foundations

Beginning Jan 06, 2018  
First Sunday every Month  
Foundation Teaching

With small group  
discussion and additional  
teaching

**Christmas Eve Service**  
**Monday December 24 - 7:00 pm**  
Bring your favorite "napkin desert" to share.

## New Small Group Forming



Starting January 6, 2019  
Sundays @ 8:45-9:30

Where: Crossroads - Pulse Room

Why: To gain a better understanding  
of the Bible and to follow a plan to  
systematically read through the Bible  
in a year.

Dr. Ralph W. Neighbour, Jr.

**Robert Henderson**  
Will be teaching on  
The **COURTS** of **HEAVEN**  
at  
**Crossroads Community  
Church**  
January 18-19, 2018  
**Registration is Required**

DOVE USA YOUTH RETREAT  
**BENEATH**  
*the*  
**SURFACE**  
DOVE YOUTH

January 18-20, 2019

Consider sponsoring a *pulser* to attend the winter retreat. See Nick Payne if you are interested, or, if God speaks to you about a specific amount you can place it in the offering. The cost is \$125.00 per person. To those who give the youth have prepared a special gift as a way of saying "thank you."

**Charlie Blue  
Finds What  
Christmas Is All  
About**

Do not miss the CrossKids and CREW as they perform their skit and song during our Christmas Eve service.

Monday December 24, 7:00 pm



Dec 19 - WEDNESDAY - PULSE Guest Speaker Pete Harrison 7:00 pm

Dec 24 - Crossroads Family Service - Christmas Eve 7:00 pm

Jan 6 - Cover the Bible Survey Course Begins 8:45-9:30 am

Jan 18-19 - Courts of Heaven Seminar with Robert Henderson

Jan 20 - Sunday Morning Guest Speaker Robert Henderson Teaching on First Fruits

Jan 27 – Crossroads Family (Business) Meeting 7:00 pm



You are able to give online by going to our church website [www.crossroadswinchester.com](http://www.crossroadswinchester.com) and clicking on the online giving logo at top of the home page. This will take you to the log in page which is a convenient way for you to give.



Monday – 9:00 – 4:00

Tuesday - 9:00 - 4:00

Wednesday - 9:00-4:00

Thursday - 9:00-4:00

Phone: 540.722.4035

Email: [ccc.admin@crossroadswinchester.com](mailto:ccc.admin@crossroadswinchester.com)