

# Living by His word

## C H R I S T M A S

When we think of Christmas we think of baby Jesus in a manger and how three wise men from the east came to worship him, God coming in the flesh, the savior of the world, saving mankind from sin and Satan's power.

In my early years as a Christian I did not realize that I only knew Him after the flesh according to **2 Cor 5:16**, but let's look at **verse 17**. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold all things have become new. The term "new creation" (in the Greek) means "back to its original formation". Now we have been reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. The word reconciled basically means "to change from an enemy to a friend". How is this accomplished? **Verse 19:** By not imputing or keeping a logged account against us, our trespasses or missing the mark with God. That's why God placed in us the word of reconciliation! God has now made a way for man to come to Him. That's the meaning of Christmas. According to **1 Tim 2:5** Jesus is called the perfect mediator between God and man. The word mediator means: One who can put one hand on man and one hand on God, bringing the two impossibilities together. A "Go Between, a Reconciler". Thank God Jesus was born into the earth, because without His arrival we would have never been "saved". What is not made clear to the world is the substitutionary work of Christ. That's why Jesus had to be manifest in the flesh as God and then die for all mankind.

The bible is clear on the meaning of "two Adams". (**1 Cor 15:45**) Notice the first Adam became a living soul, created to never die. But the "Last Adam" (**Jesus**) was a Life Giving Spirit. That means Jesus was brought into this world to die for everyone. He's called the sacrificial Lamb of God. We know the first Adam did fall, and then died

physically. In **Rom 5:12**, Adam allowed "a nature to sin" to enter the world, and then death; a spiritual separation from God. Over time that sin nature spread to all people. Because all of mankind began to sin against God through that nature we inherited from the first Adam after the fall, man lost his spiritual identity with God over the road of time. (**Gen 6:3, 5, 8, 13, 14-22**) (**verse 3**) God defines clearly that He no longer can strive (rule, govern, sway, judge, or regulate) with man for He is now one with his flesh. This is the definition of "spiritual death"; a spiritual separation from God. This is what brought judgment on all mankind in Noah's time. (**verse 13**) His natural mind no longer permits God to work in his heart. (**verse 5**) God in his great love was determined not to lose that entire generation. So He chose Noah (**verse 8**) to preach righteousness to that generation for 120 years; (**Verse 8**) the time it took Noah to build the ark. (**verse 14-22**)

Apparently God did reach some, including all the innocent, for some must have repented in death according to **1 Peter 3:19-20**, where 8 souls were left on earth. God permitted the dying of their flesh in order for their souls to be saved spiritually. That nature, the bible says, ruled from Adam to Moses, till it was exposed through the Law. (**Rom 5:14**) Now take time to read **Rom 5:17-18**. Notice through one man's righteous act, the free gift of righteousness will reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. **What righteous act gave all men the free gift to justification of Life?** By Jesus' physical death on the cross, fulfilling God's will for all mankind whoever would receive Him.

By Jesus choosing to go to the cross, He put His body in the place of mankind on the cross. (**2 Cor 5:14-15**) God judged man sin

by pouring His wrath out ON YOU AND ME through the Son, the Lamb of God. (**verse 21**) Therefore whoever receives the Son, you are then baptized in His death, so that the body of sin is rendered inoperative and you are no longer a slave to that nature in the physical body we received from the first Adam. Please read **Rom 6:3-13**.

He said on the cross, "It is finished". (**John 19:30**) He condemned sin in the flesh. (**Rom 8:3**) Read **Rom 7:24-25**. Thank God I no longer have life just after the flesh, but I'm back spiritually, to the original formation as God intended. Born again, spiritually alive, I am in contact with God, through Jesus once again spiritually. This is why that free gift came to us, the baby laying in the manger. (**Heb 10:9-10**) **Verse 9:** He taketh away the first (your body in His death on the cross) that He may establish the second (your spirit born again) **Verse 10:** by that will through the offering of the BODY of Jesus Christ once for all. Christmas brought from the heart of the Father the sacrifice for the cross. Please take time to read these verses; they will help clarify this letter. **Heb 10:5-12; Col 2:11-15; Eph 2:11-18**. So take up your cross and follow Him! (**Matt 16:24**)

My wife, Sue and I wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I pray the meaning of Christmas, that wonderful gift given to all mankind in the manger over 2000 years ago, grips your heart as it does mine. (John 15:13)

Merry Christmas,  
Jann + Sue



I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE AND NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME

## BASIC INFO

### SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Morning  
10:30 AM

Wednesday Evening  
7:00 PM

### CONTACT

253.536.2233

[bhwcc@byhisword.org](mailto:bhwcc@byhisword.org)

10110 Aqueduct Dr. E.  
Tacoma, WA 98445

P.O. Box 110608  
Tacoma, WA 98411

### SOCIAL

Facebook Page search for "By His Word"

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"It is  
Finished!"

John 19:30

# Christmas Services

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday Dec. 15th 10:30 AM

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT

SERVICE & COMMUNION

Wednesday Dec. 18th

7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY SERVICES

CANCELLED FOR CHRISTMAS

DAY AND NEW YEARS DAY

## Giving Tree

Pick up an ornament in the Foyer first.  
bring in unwrapped, quality gifts by December 15th

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Giving Tree deadline** | Sunday December 15<sup>TH</sup>

**Family Christmas Service** | Sunday December 15<sup>TH</sup> 10:30 AM

**CandleLight Service - Bring Cookies** | Sunday Dec. 18<sup>TH</sup> 7:00 PM

**Men's Breakfast** | December 14<sup>TH</sup>, Saturday 8:30AM in the GRC

**Women's Bible Study** | Dec. 3<sup>TH</sup> & 10<sup>TH</sup> 10AM in the GRC

**Word Connection - FACE TO FACE** | Begins January 12<sup>TH</sup>

**OFFICES CLOSED** | December 23<sup>RD</sup> to January 3<sup>RD</sup>



**SPROUTS** PRESCHOOL  
**+GROW** KIDS

We are using a new curriculum for class. Pastors Mike and Isabel can inform you of more info.

**CULTIVATE** YOUTH  
CHRISTMAS PARTY  
Dec. 11th

**Wednesdays**  
**@7PM** in GRC  
Sanctuary.