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For Questions, or to make Reservations contact:
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By: Joel R McGarvey

We are in the midst of one of the busiest times of the year, Christmas. Stores have been playing Christmas music since the first of October. Even Christmas trees and decorations have been on display since the end of September. For several months Social media has been full of folks posting pictures of the Christmas decorations they had **already** put up. The closer the day draws, the busier we all become as the holiday consumes our every thought and deed.

little more of Jesus until His presentation in the Temple at age 12 and then not again until He begins His public ministry and is baptized at age 30. It ought to be shocking to some that so little time is spent on the birth of this long-anticipated One. The prophets had written of His links to Israel, the Tribe of Judah, His birth in Bethlehem and the fact that it was all linked to a virgin who conceived, and yet, the night He was born there was no room for his family in the Inn.

But what is Christmas really all about? What is the truth hidden behind all of the shopping, lights, trees, decorations, and festivities? Churches will put on their annual Christmas pageants with the singing of carols, children dressed up as Biblical characters, cute little dramatic plays, all closed out with a few words from the Pastor. But is this really what Christmas is all about?

But you see, folks, the birth of Christ is significant only in that it was through this event that God entered into this world in the flesh (Jn. 1:14). The angelic host had an inkling of the great purpose of His appearance when they declared at His birth, **"...Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."** And **"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"** (Lk. 2:10-11; 14)

Now I am not advocating the cancellation of Christmas, the end of church pageants, nor the blackout of lights and decorations; although it must be admitted that the latter has less than spiritual beginnings. The celebration of Christmas is a purely man-made holiday and never advocated in Scripture.

But the great and **full significance** of this birth continued to be veiled in mystery, as the ministry of John the Baptist was limited to the Nation of Israel and Jesus Himself in sending forth the disciples instructed them, **"...Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."** (Mt. 10:5-6) And why was this? Hear Jesus' own words; **"...I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel."** (Mt. 15:24)

While God had promised (Gen. 3:15) and the prophets spoke (Isa. 7:14; 9:6-7; 11:1) of the coming Redeemer, the real and full significance was veiled in mystery. Nowhere do the writers of Scripture speak of any celebration of the birth recorded in Matthew 1:18-25 and expanded upon in Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-20. In fact, immediately following Jesus' birth the Scriptures transfer to the early ministry of John the Baptist. We really hear

That veil of secrecy would not be lifted until the Apostle Paul had received the revelation of

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Truth Aflame

the mystery and would begin to preach Christ in a whole new light. "Now to Him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began..." (Rom. 16:25) And, thus, the Apostle would write; "...that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners." (1 Tim. 1:15b) And, of course, he had established who that was when he had received and penned Romans 3:23, "For all [Jew and Gentile] have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

The real significance of the Christmas season is not seen at His birth but, rather, in why He had come: to die, to be buried and to rise again as the full and complete payment for the sins of the world. To accomplish this, it would be necessary for Jesus Christ to lay down His own life, shed His own blood and die. (Heb. 9:22) But it was not enough to simply shed His blood and die. First, He had to become sin, to have the sins of the world imputed to Him (that the sin of the world was taken and placed upon the Son). The Father "made Him sin for us." (2 Cor. 5:19-21) This was so agonizing to the Son, so contrary to what, and Who the Son was that the Father turned His face and the Lord would cry out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Mt. 27:46) The price of sin, the price of my sin, the price of your sin, was placed upon the Son and He willingly laid down His life, shed His blood, and paid the cost.

The writer John records that God "...so loved the world that He gave..." (Jn. 3:16). The Apostle Paul would write along similar lines of God's love and Christ's sacrificial work: "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8) This faithfulness on the part of Christ to the

redemptive plan of the Father is seen in the faithfulness of Christ spoken of in Romans 3:22: "Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe...." Christ had prayed that the cup of iniquity could pass from Him, but then He uttered those great words of faithfulness, "...nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." (Mt. 26:39)

Here we see the great love of the Father and the faithfulness of the Son united in the cause of Redemption. God's great love for the world will cost Him the life of His Son. And this, my friends, is the true reason for the season. The greatest gift ever given to man was the man Christ Jesus Who came into the world for the purpose of laying down His life to pay the full price of Sin.

**"For God so loved the world
Though He knew
What love would cost."**

As we enter this festive time of the year with the business of the season, the laughter and parties, the family gatherings and festivities, let us not forget that the reason we celebrate is the willing act of redemption carried out by that babe born in that lowly manger, that One Who was born to die. Christmas is a time filled with love, but it was the love of God, demonstrated through His son that paid the terrible cost.

As we celebrate, let us not forget the real reason for the celebration that the gift of life made available to all who, by belief, place their faith and trust in the finished work of Christ; His death, burial and resurrection. Have you taken that step of faith? Do have a relationship with the Father through the Son? I can think of no greater time than right now to take that simple step of believing faith and trust Christ and His finished work on your behalf, and Christ alone. =

Have you missed us?

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check our New & Improved Book Store at www.bibledoctrines.org

BDTLB has worked to keep our prices as low as possible, with no increases for many years. But time and expenses have finally caught up to us and we have been forced to raise our prices. These new prices are reflected at the WEB store and in the new catalogs. If you have a catalog with a date of 2019, or earlier, we will honor those prices until January 1, 2020. Call for a new catalog. 616-785-3618. Thank you

From the BDTLB Mailbag

Enclosed is a gift for the Reclamation Resource Center. We are very thankful to have found this organization and appreciate the information Mike Levenhagen has shared during our zoom meetings. Hoping this will help grow your ministry.

WI

Please add this to your donation (*Broadcast fund*). So blessed to be able to listen to the Word rightly divided. Heard of you from my Aunt in Michigan.

Please add us to your mailing list. Would like to receive your catalog and Truth Aflame.

TX

We received the following from a prisoner to whom we sent grace doctrine. "Just wanted to thank you again for the 2 booklets you sent me, and the pamphlets, they were and are such a blessing to me, the Bible makes so much sense now, I'm trying to share with those who pick a verse in the Gospels and claim riches, health, prosperity but some will not listen but thankfully some do. I am sending \$200.00 for you to use however you see fit, I know you will use it to further the clear understanding of God's word.

The IRS sent me a stimulus check, \$1,400. Thank God, Thank you and God bless you and yours.

This is the first time ever that a prisoner, still in prison, has sent a gift to the ministry!

We will be sending Howard \$200 worth of grace books to study while he serves his time. Pray with us for his continued growth in the Lord.

Grace and Peace, (*This is from a ministry partner in Chicago*)

IL

Hello McGarveys and staff,

It's so great to keep up with the traveling ministry and taped ministry too. Your ministry as a USA missionary is so-o-o- needed. Praying for you as you travel and the office staff as they maintain the printing ministry and office.

I have been wanting to send a little to help where needed and I received in the mail today your letter and envelopes, which was a nudge to get this in the mail.

Thank you and always keeping Bible Doctrines in my prayers,

IN

Thank you for all you do to keep the office running smooth all summer while everyone is so busy (or at least controlled kaos.) I thought older people were supposed to slow down and set a spell. Not happening. I look forward to cold snowy days. HA!

Anyways the Lord has made the gardens and fields beautiful. Praise Him for all He provides for us. Keep up the good work. He ALONE is worthy of all praise and honor.

OH



Dear Friends, Prayer Warriors and Partners,

Greetings in the wonderful name of our Savior and Lord, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Another year, another Christmas greeting. This is, for some, a most favorite time of the year (*Hey, that might make a great song.*) For others it may be less than pleasant as the days are affected by health, labor, or personal issues. We live in a difficult period of our history with so many things previously taken for granted, now only a memory. Unemployment has skyrocketed, many have suffered greatly during this pandemic, with many hundreds of thousands souls passing away. Whatever your position on the issues may be, the hard facts remain. With everything else going on, we have seen great division impacting families and churches. It has truly been a most interesting two years.

Despite all of the difficulties we still have much for which to glorify and praise the Lord. **"Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice"** (Phil 4:4). **"But God forbid that I should, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world"** (Gal. 6:14). This, my friends, is the real reason we celebrate the Christmas season, not for the child in the manger, but the One who gave Himself for us that we may have life, liberty, and peace

with our Heavenly Father. **"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief"** (1 Tim. 1:15). The true reason for the season is not found in an empty manger, nor is it found on an empty cross. No, the true reason for the season is in the empty tomb. Hallelujah, He's alive, and we're forgiven. Now there's a reason to celebrate.

As I prepare this letter our lives are full of blessings. This year our grandson Isaac graduated from college, our oldest granddaughter got married, and our youngest son and his wife presented us with grandbaby #15. But that is not all; our granddaughter has now informed us that in June of 2022 we will become great grandparents. Someone is getting old.

Susan and I continue in the ministry here at BDTLB, and, in the time of life many begin to slow down, we keep expanding our ministry. Our summer FBS (remember how we announced a slowing down); well, the summer of 2022 looks to be just as full. In addition, we conduct two weekly broadcasts, a daily morning devotional broadcast, and soon Susan will begin her own program, "Miss Susan's Bible Buddies". But we love what we do (it's still fun), and we see no need to stop and play. We simply ask for your continued prayer as we seek to press on in faithful service to the Lord.

From our hearts to yours, we say thank you for your continued prayers and financial support (we couldn't do what we do without that). You are truly full partners in our ministry and the ministry of BDTLB at large.

Here's praying you have a very blessed Christ-filled Christmas and New Year. I challenge us all to make 2022 a powerful year for the Gospel.

Keep Looking Up.

In Christ,

Joel & Susan



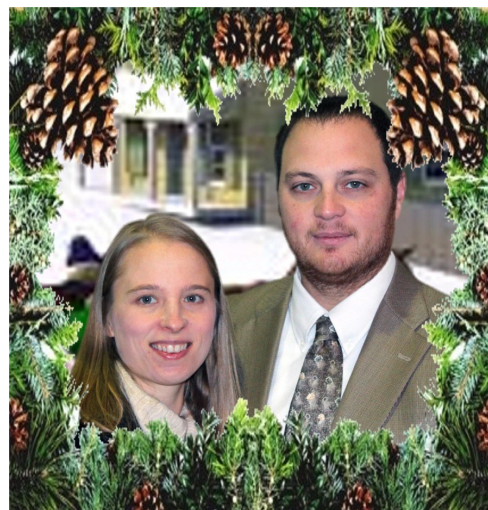
In Memorial

Pastor Mark Brush

**Kathy Brush
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Janet Davis

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Ritchey

letter are finished. These four lesson books, entitled Books of the Bible, are even being used in several adult study groups.

I was able to lay out a new book (The Tabernacle in the Wilderness) by Lee Homoki that is a very informative book on the tabernacle in outline form. I am also working on a wonderful Grace Bible study for ladies' groups by Kay Russell.

On the home front, Jennifer and I are doing well and staying (too) busy. Isaac is currently doing a post-graduate internship with a paper in Flint, Michigan. Noah is working a full-time job as an electrician. Jonas is much taller than I and a junior in high school. Micah is in the high school (eighth grade) and involved in a variety of sports. Miriam is in sixth grade and growing before our very eyes. Jennifer and I both thank you for your encouragement, prayer, and support through the past year.

The Lord has truly blessed us in many ways here at Bible Doctrines To Live By. We are aware that many of you are facing your own personal issues, whether it is health-related or other circumstances, and we trust that you are lifting your worries to the Lord and allowing the peace of God to fill your hearts in minds.

For all that has been accomplished, through the ministry at Bible Doctrines To Live By, the glory goes to Jesus Christ. He is the reason we serve; He is the reason we live. We have a wonderful opportunity at Christmas time and the beginning of a New Year to be reminded to set our affections on things above, where Christ sits at the right hand of the Father. We can share the good news that Christ took on flesh and sacrificed Himself for us by dying on the cross. His burial and resurrection provided eternal life. His exaltation gives us riches and assurance. We have new life in Jesus Christ. If you have never trusted Christ as your Savior, if you have never placed all of your faith in His finished work to save you, what is keeping you from doing so today? Right now, you can acknowledge your need for a Savior and believe that Jesus paid the price for us on the cross, was buried to lay our sin to rest, and rose again from the dead to secure eternal life in Heaven for all who believe.

If you have trusted in Christ as your Savior, take

2021, I hardly knew ye. The words of a familiar hymn say, "To God be the glory for the things He hath done." This is certainly true once again of this past year, for what He had done through the ministry of Bible Doctrines To Live By and for being able to minister because of your faithful prayer and financial support of this ministry.

The Lord has certainly been using our online ministry (Facebook, YouTube, www.bibledoctrines.org) to minister to faithful friends and new individuals. Part of my responsibilities are to make sure to place Joel's videos (Sunday's Bible Hour and Tuesday Night Bible Time) on the website. I also did a series on evangelism over the summer on Tuesday evenings. In addition, my Sunday sermons at Croton Community Church covering the book of Romans are uploaded to YouTube and are released on Facebook on Thursdays. I have been adding a header to Lee's Bible Briefs and scheduling them to release on Facebook every Wednesday, so they are always available to read on our website. One of the benefits of doing this is that I get to enjoy the blessings of the resources first, as I prepare them for you to enjoy the blessings of the resources.

This year I was able to speak twice during BDTLB's online conference in January, as well as make personal trips to speak at the Berean Bible Fellowship conference in Tipp City, Ohio, the Heartland conference in Middlebury, Indiana, and the Grace Believers' conference in Croton, Michigan.

The lessons giving a brief overview of all of the books of the Bible that I mentioned in last year's Christmas



Lippincott

"Behold the virgin shall be with child and bear a Son and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated "God with us" (Matthew 1:23). What a comfort in life to me! God is with me through everything. Jesus, who always existed with the Father and Holy Spirit and was present in the creation, humbled Himself to come to earth to save us from sin. "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee", we read in Hebrews 13:5b. Jesus Christ, my Savior, is always with me. How thankful we can be for God's sovereignty in Jesus' birth and His protection of His young life. Considering the world as it is today, this security gives me strength to live my life in a more purposeful and peaceful way.

As I celebrate my fifth Christmas with Bible Doctrines, my duties expanded this year to include the Bookkeeper position along with Office Manager. God has been "with me", as I needed to stretch. He has been my help, as I needed to learn so many aspects of Quickbooks.

Pondering Christmas memories, I am reminded that my family is a great blessing, with seven children and 11 grandchildren, ages two to 20 years. It is fun to see God develop so many varied talents and interests in their lives. Our highlight of the year was adding Katie Parsons to the family, as she and Trevor were married in June. My youngest son, Titus, is a senior this year, and taking one class each semester at Grace Christian University. He also works evenings in the building department at Menards. My parents live with us and we are thankful that we just celebrated Dad's 90th birthday in October.

In spite of the sadness in the world, we can be thankful for who we are in Christ and who He is to us. We can focus on our HOPE, because of His entry into the world and His death, burial and resurrection in our place. We are forgiven and free to live confidently in Him. Instead of trying to have control over my own life, it is better accepting God's sovereignty over all. When I rest in God's Son, Jesus Christ, He gives me peace in this uncertain world. Considering those thoughts, I trust that you all have a Blessed Christmas and

New Year 2022! =

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- Bible Doctrines To Live By** presents **Bible Study Hour** with evangelist Joel R. McCreary, **SUNDAY 5PM EST**
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THANKSGIVING



GOD'S WORD SAYS:

"In every thing give thanks..."

1 Thessalonians 5:18

In the United States, we use Thanksgiving to give thanks for our country. Does this mean we are thankful only one day a year? No, it does not. We can thank the Lord EVERY day for what we have as a believer in Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving can also be a day when we are reminded of how much we have to be thankful for in the Lord. God has given us a reason to always give thanks. We are saved when we trust in Jesus Christ. We should always be thankful to the Lord. Not just one day a year, but each and every day.

CHRISTMAS



GOD'S WORD SAYS:

"...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners..."

1 Timothy 1:15

Christmas is celebrated around the world. There is so many fun things at Christmas, like presents, trees, lights, food, family. Most Christians use Christmas as a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. He left Heaven above and came to earth as a baby. He came to be the Savior of the world. Christmas can be a time when we remember what is really important—salvation through trusting in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We should use this day (and every other day) to tell others what Christ has done to save them and give them a home in Heaven.

NEW YEAR



GOD'S WORD SAYS:

"Set your thoughts on things above..."

Colossians 3:2

New Year's Day is a time to remember the year behind and plan for the year ahead. We can use it as an opportunity to remember what we have to be thankful for, remember our Savior, and remember that we are to live for the Lord each and every day.

While God has not given us days that we HAVE to keep, these holidays that people celebrate can be used to bring honor to the Lord. Let these days remind us that EVERY DAY is to be lived to celebrate our great God and Savior.

time right now to thank Him for the great things He has done. May you be prepared for the Lord to continue to use you for His honor and glory in the months to come.

Once again, thank you so much for all of your encouragement, prayers, and support. From the Ritchey family to you, we wish you a Merry CHRISTmas and a CHRIST-filled New Year! =

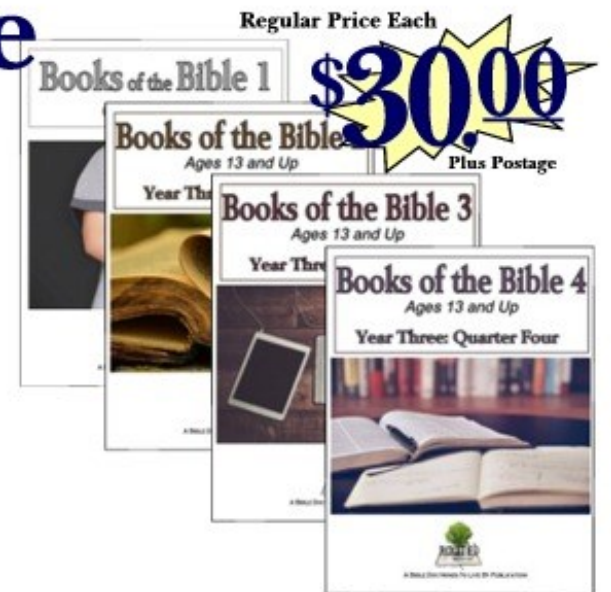
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SPECIAL PRICING ENDS JANUARY 31, 2022

Board of Directors

Greetings in The name Jesus Christ,

As we approach the season when many celebrate family, gifts, meals together let us not forget our reason for joy. Families often have troubles, gifts break or are lost, and meals only provide temporary relief from hunger. Even the memories of gatherings fade and are part of our earthly experience. True joy is eternal and comes from Almighty God through His son, Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

What a splendid gift God has given us in Jesus Christ. We have the opportunity to tell others of this gift of

eternal life. It is a great reason to celebrate when someone believes in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Bible Doctrines to Live By continues to proclaim the truth of this gift of eternal life to a lost and dying world. We are so thankful to the many ministry partners who come alongside and support this ministry. We could not continue without the prayers, labor, and financial donations of so many who desire to spread this eternal joy to others.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Bible Doctrines to live By, I convey our sincere thanks and love to all of the supporters and friends as we reach the world for Jesus Christ. May this season be one of joy as you gather together and praise His Holy name. =



Coloring page

TRUTH for Youth

Special Edition. Volume 4.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."



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What is your favorite holiday? Why is it your favorite?

We have come to the time of the year that people call "the holidays." Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's can be fun, exciting times. They are special times of the year. Lights, cookies, singing, turkey, football, parties...there is a lot to be excited about during the holidays.

PRAISE GOD EVERY DAY



GOD'S WORD SAYS:

"Let no one...judge you...in respect of an holyday." Colossians 2:16

God gave Israel certain holy days that they had to observe. Today, we are not Israel; we are the Church. God has not given us any holy days, or holidays, that we HAVE to celebrate. Kids outside of the United States do not celebrate Thanksgiving. Some people observe Christmas; other people do not. Some people do something special on New Year's Day; other people treat it just like any other day. We should not judge people that treat the days differently than we do. God has given all of us freedom to make their own choice about these days. While the holidays can be good times to remember what God has done for us, the most important thing to remember is that we should be celebrating God EVERY day, not just on certain days of the year.