



THE LYTLE LIGHT

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

— Matthew 5:14a (NKJV)

The believer is appointed to be a lighthouse to others;
a cheering lamp, a shining star, a loving guide.

bulletin of the **CHURCH of CHRIST** in lytle, texas

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Number 52

Current Sunday Schedule: 9:45AM - Bible Study | 10:45AM - Worship

~12:00PM—Every 4th Sunday (Except For Months With 5 Sundays)—Potluck Fellowship Meal

~ 12:00PM—Every 5th Sunday—Potluck Fellowship Meal & Games Following Meal

Current Wednesday Schedule: 5:00PM—Bible Study

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If you're searching for faith rather than simply religion; virtue rather than simply values; relationship rather than rule-keeping; divine help rather than self-help; then we may be the place for you.

SHOULD WE CELEBRATE RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS?

The title of our article asks an important question. Should New Testament Christians celebrate religious holidays? The text I'll be using today is Romans 14:1-12 where this subject is discussed because some Jewish Christians were holding on to the "special days" set aside by the Old Testament. This can also be seen in the letter of Galatians (4:9-11). As Paul attempted to teach them to let go of the traditions of the old law he also taught acceptance of Non-Jews who held different or no traditional holidays at all.

Because of their spiritual immaturity those who keep such days were allowed to do so until they learned better. So where does that leave the modern day Christian when it comes to religious holidays? First, remember that the Gospel is for all peoples worldwide (Rom. 1:16) where there are many different customs and traditions.

As those people come to Christ they bring those traditions with them. For instance, a person might come from a denominational background in which certain days of fasting

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WELCOME VISITOR!

We *Welcome* Each & Every One Of You To Our Worship Services today! We Hope You Will Stay After Services So We May Become Better Acquainted! And Be Sure To Join Us For Our Monthly Fellowship Meal After Worship Services On The 4th or 5th Sunday Of Every Month!

Be Sure To Pick Up A Visitor Pamphlet From The Table Under The Mirror In The Front Hall.

And Please Fill Out A Visitor Card (We *PROMISE* Not To Sell Your Information!) From The Back Of The Pew In Front Of You And Place It In The Collection Plate Located On The Table In The Back Of The Auditorium.

ORDER OF SERVICE



- ENTER TO WORSHIP •
- ANNOUNCEMENTS •
- SCRIPTURE READING •
- OPENING PRAYER •

Not In Song Book—O Come, Emmanuel

Song No. 663—Silent Night! Holy Night!

Song No. 473—Break Thou The Bread Of Life



• LORD'S SUPPER •



Song No. 657—Beautiful Star Of Bethlehem

• MINISTER'S INTERCESSORY PRAYER •

Not In Song Book—We Three Kings

• SERMON — *SEE RIGHT COLUMN* •

Invitation Song No. 667—What Child Is This?

• FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS •

Closing Song No. 654—Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

• PRAYER: OFFERING & CLOSING •

• DEPART TO SERVE IN LOVE •

SERMON



— MAKING ROOM —

• *SCRIPTURE REFERENCES* •

Luke 2:1-7

• *SERMON OUTLINE* •

— INTRODUCTION —

- I. No Room At The Inn!
 - A. Brief History
 - B. Could It All Just Be Tradition?
 - C. Kataluma! ... Whaaaat? You Want Fries With That?
 - D. The Place Where It Happened
- II. Such A Bad Rap
 - A. Making Room
 - B. Questions And More Questions
 - C. Is There Room?
- III. Story Time
 - A. Little Timmy
 - B. Becky's Brood
- IV. Making Room Revisited

— CONCLUSION —

• *INVITATION* •

WED NIGHT STUDY

DECEMBER 27 @ 5:00 PM In Fellowship Hall

Please Join Us When Possible! (Use Rear Doors)

— 1 Corinthians 6 —



— DECEMBER 31 —

5th Sunday New Years Eve - After Morning Worship

THEME: TRADITIONAL POTLUCK

— MARCH 17 —

3rd Sunday Fellowship - After Morning Worship

[continued from front]

are observed. It would be very difficult for that person's conscience to suddenly stop observing the tradition. Therefore tolerance for such is allowed in the "Law of Liberty." However, the New Testament does not *require* Christians to observe religious holidays thus freeing us from such binding traditions. **E**

CHRISTMAS IS AN OPPORTUNITY

This is the time of year when we've become accustomed to a barrage of sermons and articles telling us that Christmas is an unauthorized Holy Day (Colossians 3:17; 2 John 9). We are reminded of some of the myths of Christmas, such as: the "three" wise men (and their names), or that they were at the manger along with the shepherds. In truth, we don't know how many Maji there were, nor their names; and they most assuredly were NOT at the manger. In fact, Jesus may have been as much as two years old when the wise men visited (Matthew 2:1-2, 7, 11, 16). And, of course, "the biggie" — that He wasn't even born on December 25th! Now, to be sure, all these traditions are not in Scripture and the Bible is truth and the truth must be preached (2 Timothy 4:2).

But this year, allow me to share a story I read recently in my pursuit of the internet. At one time there was a certain brash young preacher (let's call him Jacob), eager to show the denominations just how wrong they were about nearly everything (never mind about actually winning their hearts for Jesus). Then one day, while speaking to an older brother in the Lord (we'll call him Martin — who Jacob respected very much), about how pitiful it was that so many had no clue regarding the truth about Christmas, the older gentleman said something that blew the proverbial socks off the young preacher. The older brother said, "I don't worry too much about Christmas, because at least for one moment each year, the whole *world* knows about Jesus!"

Well, to say the least, Jacob was flabbergasted!

Indeed, he was so troubled that he had to "tell on Martin" to a preacher friend of his. Jacob was, of course, seeking validation, and an effective response, so he could put his older friend in his place. Much to the young man's surprise, the preacher agreed with the older brother in Christ! The moral of the story is that as Jacob thought about those conversations, with the passing of time, he came to appreciate the wisdom given to him by those men. No, they were not trying to tell Jake that it was OK to bind an unauthorized Holy Day upon others. But they were trying to get him to see a positive side rather than a negative with regard to Christmas.

So, let us think about his. Of all the holidays throughout the year, *this* is one where Jesus simply *must* be dealt with — one way or another. The very name, "Christmas," puts the name of Christ right in *everyone's* face! Radio stations play carols which tell of His birth, and His mission to save man from sin (cf. Matthew 1:21). Shopping malls are filled with references to Christmas, Christ, Nativity scenes, and other Christmasy things. Unbelievers fight relentlessly to remove such displays from public life and many stores and restaurants and other retailers train their employees *not* to say, "Merry Christmas" — lest we offend some atheist or individual of a different faith such as a Jew or Muslim or Native American; and some schools ban religious Christmas songs from their "Holiday Concerts." Yes, the proverbial "War on Christmas" has been in full swing for a long time! And right now, when everyone's mind is *on* Jesus, we have a golden opportunity to do something positive for the Master!

Throughout the year, Jesus is ignored; but at the end of the year, *everybody* must, in some way, deal with Jesus! The atheist, Muslim, and Jew each must decide how to handle the holidays. And they don't all handle it the same way! For example, some atheists will observe the day non-religiously; while others refuse any participation whatsoever. Our denominational friends will, of course, pay homage to "the tradition of men," with their Christmas pageants and cantatas

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- ◇ Norris Family [David, husband of Ruth Norris, a friend of Carol Vierling's since 7th grade] — He's in ICU on a ventilator, having had several strokes, Covid and multiple other health issues. ^[2]
- ◇ Turnbow, Elaine [Deborah Smoot's friend] — She fell and broke her pelvis. ^[2]
- ◇ Turnbow, Gary [Deborah Smoot's friend, Elaine's husband] — He is recovering from back surgery. ^[2]
- ◇ Velma McMeans [Wendell's mom] — She's been experiencing low blood sugar episodes. ^[2]
- ◇ Wentrcek Family [James, Father of Jeremy Wentrcek, a teacher where Tom Woodard's subs] — James passed into eternity Wednesday, December 6. ^[2]

DECEMBER 3

- ◇ Sensat, Miriam [Preston Davis (Tom's friend)'s friend, Miranda LeFluer's, mother] — She lost her son this past week. ^[3]
- ◇ Torres, Donna [Valerie Tafoya (Friend of the congregation)'s mother] — She started chemo treatments back on November 27. ^[3]

NOVEMBER 26

- ◇ No New As Of This Printing ^[4]

NOVEMBER 19

- ◇ LeFluer, Miranda [Preston Davis' (Tom's friend) friend] — She continues to improve from her automobile accident which required surgery to relieve bleeding in her brain. ^[5]
- ◇ McMeans, Wendell — His back has been giving him issues. ^[5]

NOVEMBER 12

- ◇ Bippert, Cheryl [Roger Smoot's cousin] She was in an automobile accident and sustained several broken ribs. She's in PT at Sontera but is not doing well. Her daughter was also sustained non life threatening injuries and is doing okay. ^[6]
- ◇ Bippert Family [Ernest Bippert, Cheryl's husband] — He passed into eternity from injuries

sustained in an automobile accident (the same one Cheryl was in. ^[6]

- ◇ Boldt, Sandy [Schoolmate of Roger & Deborah Smoot] — She is fighting cancer — her whole body is riddled which has necessitated several surgeries with more required. ^[6]
- ◇ Fintel, Pam — She's been dealing a leg issue — there was an infection for which she received medications. She also recently had to give 17 vials of blood for testing — her doctor thinks something may be wrong with her liver. ^[6]
- ◇ Last-Name-Unknown, Nancy [Strunks' Neighbor] — She's been diagnosed with a brain tumor. ^[6]
- ◇ Lloyd, Linda — She was released from the hospital after her heart ablation Wednesday night, November 1 and is now at home. ^[6]

NOVEMBER 5

- ◇ Davis Family [Mitch Watkins' best friend from the Navy] — His mother passed into eternity Wednesday a week ago. ^[7]
- ◇ Dye, Joyce [Melanie's sister-in-law's mother] — She has lived 10 years since her first diagnosis of cancer, having been told she only had a year or two. Her cancer has returned and the outlook is two months. ^[7]
- ◇ Moore, Michael & Michelle [Tom Woodard's son-in-law & daughter] — November 1st was the 10th anniversary of Joshua's passing. ^[7]

OCTOBER 29 & OLDER

Barron, Pat ^[18]; Brock, Jim ^[18]; Brock Family ^[16]; Brown, Scott ^[11]; Bucheit Family ^[12]; Burris, Joyce ^[12]; Clemetson, Allie ^[18]; Cook, Daisy ^[18]; Davis Family ^[12]; Farris Family ^[17]; Haass Family ^[20]; Halverson Family ^[12]; Hoover, Herb ^[18]; Lester, Kathy ^[21]; Montalvo, Louie ^[8]; Noble Family ^[10]; Orr, Myrna ^[20]; Orr & Burris Families ^[15]; Parra, Rudy ^[12]; Shelton, Judy ^[18]; Slaughter, Ron ^[11]; Smith, Betty ^[10]; Smith, Philip ^[18]; Sparks, Janice ^[20]; Spicer, Ronda ^[15]; Stroud, Brenna & Derrick ^[17]; Stroud, Faith ^[17]; Vierling, Carlene ^[20]; Vierling, Carol ^[15]; Villarreal, Nick ^[15]; Woodard, Sue ^[7]

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(Matthew 15:7-9; Colossians 2:6-8). And those of us who are simply Christians will busy ourselves in trying to correct their errors — hopefully without sounding so obnoxious that no one listens!

Why not turn this time of year into an opportunity to ask people: “What are *you* going to do with Jesus?” You see, He is the one Man who changed the world! Someone once said, “He built a bridge to Heaven with two boards, and three nails.” He has so influenced the world that we have until very recent times, have measure time from His birth (BC versus AD). The fact is: Jesus simply cannot be ignored! He is the Christian’s Lord (Acts 2:36), his God (John 20:28), and his Savior (Matthew 1:21); as a matter of fact, He is (or should be) *everything* to a follower of Christ Jesus! And remember that ultimately, each of us will face Him in judgment (John 12:48).

The bottom line is this: You can deal with Jesus now, or deal with Him later; *but you WILL deal with Him!* (2 Corinthians 5:10). If you have been putting Jesus out of your mind and life, why not give Him serious consideration — or perhaps reconsideration? As Tom has told us, if those of us who believe in Christ are wrong, and there truly is no God, we will never know it; for we shall just pass quietly into non-existence. On the other hand, if those who don’t believe in Christ are wrong, they will lose their soul (John 8:24). And *that* makes it a question worth pursuing! The evidence is overwhelming that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Please examine all of the prophecies, as well as the eyewitness testimony — all offered by men who gave their lives in His service and make your choice! **E**



SCRIPTURE WORD SEARCH

REVELATION 22:10-15

¹⁰ And he said to me, “Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. ¹¹ He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.” ¹² “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.” ¹⁴ Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. ¹⁵ But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

R I G H T E O U S S I J Q H S O K R O G
Q B Z S C W H O E V E R G U S I O V X Q
C Q P Y R H X V N B B U W Y N C I T Y S
J V Z L R E O D N A O E G X H J M S C O
E S L K R L T H R R H W G D F T U C Q R
S R A C L D K A H A K B D I L I L S I C
O B S I N Y O T L T W N P R N O U I T E
H G T U T P F G S O E E L S I N H R F R
T P M Q P S K D S T D P R P D G I E Z E
V J R U D Y E I E D N I O I A R H N B R
C D H A R Z L A Z S F E W U R X O T G S
D G I Y C D I O L U S E M I T E O W K D
O S N A L T E G C M P E Y D E S T G C U
I G E I S L I R B O O K L C N W I N E S
M K F T D L A C E Q I G O B K A O D E T
M V H I A R I U E R W A H P L A M R E I
O Z X A R G O F X S S G N I M O C M K L
R Y P B N S H C E E P I O J R E C S O L
A F L P X D T Z C H S Y P V E E R T M C
L Y C E H P O R P A E V E R Y O M E G A

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

— Matthew 1:18-21

ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS





Roger & Deborah Smoot	December 21	Anniversary
Dan Orr	January 11	Birthday
Billy Strunk	January 26	Birthday
Jim Gardner	January 30	Birthday




*If Your Special Day Is Between Today's Date And January 31, 2023,
And You Do Not See Your Name(s) Above, Please Let Mitch Know.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

— Church Stuff —

4th OR 5th Sundays	 <p>"Table" Fellowship Potluck Lunch — <i>After Worship From Approximately 12:00PM To 2:00PM</i> Every 4th Sunday Of Every Month EXCEPT For Months With a 5th Sunday</p>
Every Monday	 <p>Sewing Sisters (All Ladies Welcome!) — Meet In The Fellowship Room From 12:00PM To 2:00PM For Fellowship And To Sew Stuff (Lap Quilts, Bibs, Etc.) For The Needy Or Just To Do Things Together.</p>
Sun—Dec 31	 <p>IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY — <i>A Good Conscience</i> — for channel: searchtv.com</p>
Sun—Jan 7	 <p>IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY — <i>What God Has Done</i> — for channel: searchtv.com</p>
Sun—Jan 14	 <p>IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY — <i>The Gift Of Love</i> — for channel: searchtv.com</p>
Sun—Jan 21	 <p>IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY — <i>Meant For Good</i> — for channel: searchtv.com</p>

— Non Church Stuff —

Every Tuesday	 <p>Lytle Friendship Art Club — Fellowship Room From 9:30AM To 1:00PM Plus, Every 2nd Tuesday Of Each Month, The Club Meets For A Business Meeting, Lunch & Demonstration(s)</p>
3rd Mondays	 <p>VFW Auxiliary — Fellowship Room @ 6:00PM</p>
4th Tuesdays	 <p>Quail Creek Ranches Property Owners Association (QCRSPOA) — Fellowship Room @ 6:30PM</p>
Sun—Dec 24	<p>Christmas Eve National Eggnog Day Last Minute Shopper's Day</p>
Mon—Dec 25	<p>Christmas Day — May It Be Merry & Bright And Filled With The Love Of Jesus!</p>
Tue—Dec 26	<p>Boxing Day (British Commonwealth) National Candy Cane Day</p>
Wed—Dec 27	<p>National Fruitcake Day Visit The Zoo Day Make Cut Out Paper Snowflakes Day</p>
Thu—Dec 28	<p>National Chocolate Candy Day Pledge Of Allegiance Day (Enacted 1945)</p>
Fri—Dec 29	<p>National Hot Pepper Pot Day National "Get On The Scales" Day</p>
Sun—Dec 31	<p>New Years Eve World Peace Meditation Day Universal Hour Of Peace Day</p>

GOD'S PLAN For Saving Man —

- ♦ *God's Grace* — Ephesians 2:8;
- ♦ *Christ's Blood* — Romans 5:9;
- ♦ *The Spirit's Gospel* — Romans 1:16;
- ♦ *Sinner's Faith* — Acts 16:31;
- ♦ *Sinner's Repentance* — Luke 13:3;
- ♦ *Sinner's Confession* — Romans 10:10;
- ♦ *Sinner's Baptism* — 1 Peter 3:21;
- ♦ *Our Work* — James 2:24;
- ♦ *Our Hope* — Romans 8:24;
- ♦ *Our Endurance* — Revelation 2:10

ARE YOU SAVED BY GOD?
ASK HOW IF YOU'RE UNSURE!

INTERACTIVE

Daily Bible Reading Plan —

To open and/or download the interactive PDF file go to: video.wvbs.org/spotlight

DAILY Bible Reading —



Immersive — Through OT Once & NT 3 Times

SUN	Zec 3; Zec 4; Rev 7; Rev 8; Rev 9
MON	Zec 5; Zec 6; Zec 7; Rev 10; Rev 11
TUE	Zec 8; Zec 9; Zec 10; Rev 12; Rev 13
WED	Zec 11; Zec 12; Rev 14; Rev 15
THU	Zec 13; Zec 14; Rev 16; Rev 17
FRI	Mal 1; Mal 2; Rev 18; Rev 19
SAT	Mal 3; Mal 4; Rev 20; Rev 21

Zec = Zechariah | Rev = Revelation | | Mal = Malachi

WANT TO BE

Part Of Our Local Family?



To be identified as part of our Congregation (aka “place membership”): Fill out a Visitor’s Card with all your family information, making sure to check the box on front that says, **Wish To Serve In this Congregation**, then place the card in the collection plate on the table in the back of the auditorium.

MEMORIZE Scripture —

SELECTED VERSES FROM REVELATION

Revelation 7:9-12 — ⁹ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹ All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying: “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen.”

Revelation 22:6-9 — ⁶ Then he said to me, “These words are faithful and true.” And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. ⁷ “Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.” ⁸ Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. ⁹ Then he said to me, “See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.”

