

# Good News

*From Getwell*

Published by  
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Home of

*The Spiritual Sword Lectureship*

Radio Program

*The Truth in Love*

WHBQ-AM 560 / FM 87.7

Sundays, 8:00 a.m.

The Getwell congregation sends monthly support to the following:

Tennessee Children's Home, Spring Hill, TN  
West Tennessee Children's Home, Pinson, TN  
Potter Children's Home, Bowling Green, KY  
Children's Homes, Paragould, AR

#### SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

##### SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.  
Worship.....10:20 a.m.  
Worship.....5:00 p.m.

##### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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## ON THE HOME FRONT

It is a great time of year! We all look forward to the ability to spend time with loved ones and see one another. We hope and pray that everyone will have safe travels during this time of year. With the winter weather, the roads can sometimes be rough, so if you are travelling, our prayers are with you.

Lord willing, next Sunday we will have brother Robert R. Taylor, Jr. with us. We are so grateful that he comes to be with us at the end of each year. We look forward to hearing him each time. Brother Taylor is one of the first Gospel preachers that I can remember hearing. He would hold a Gospel meeting for us about every other year as I grew up attending the Hickory Grove congregation outside of Murray, KY. I also heard him several times at the West Kentucky Bible Lectures in Paducah, KY. We are honored each year to have him speak at the Spiritual Sword Lectureship each year, typically during the last session of the lectureship. I think I have every book that he has written, and I refer to them frequently. The Getwell congregation has always had a great relationship with brother Taylor and we appreciate him deeply.

As we near closer to this holiday season, even if we cannot go and visit some of our shut-in members, please give them a phone call or send cards or something of that nature to let them know that we are thinking of them. This would do a lot of good in helping these individuals.

Bradley Smith

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## From The Desk Of Bradley Smith

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### Should We Celebrate Christmas?

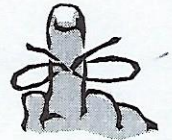
As many of us remember our childhoods, some of our fondest memories are opening presents on Christmas morning. There is much confusion in the world about Christmas and the observance thereof. Some say that Christmas should be celebrated as the birth of Jesus Christ, some say that it is celebrated as a time to gather with family without said emphasis, and others still say that it should not be celebrated at all. Should we celebrate Christmas? Was Jesus born on December 25<sup>th</sup>? Let us look to the Bible to see these answers.

As far as the observance of Christmas as the birth of Jesus, this practice is completely unscriptural. Colossians 3:17 tells us that we must have authority for all things that we do religiously. There is no passage in the New Testament that commands us to celebrate December 25<sup>th</sup> as the birth of Jesus. Even if Jesus was born on December 25<sup>th</sup> (we will see in a moment that it is highly unlikely), we would have no authority to celebrate His birth religiously. Instead, 1st Corinthians 11 tells us that we are to remember His death by partaking of the Lord's Supper. Acts 20:6-7 tells us that we are to do this every first day of the week.

It is important for us to ask if Jesus was even born on December 25<sup>th</sup>. Luke 1:5 tells us that Zacharias, father of John the Immerser, was a priest of the course of Abia. The course of Abia would have been in the temple twice a year: once from June 13-19, and again from December 6-12. After this event, he went back to his house (Luke 1:23). After this, his wife, Elizabeth, conceived (John the Immerser) (Luke 1:24). There was a five or six month age difference between John the Immerser and Jesus (Luke 1:24-26). If we take into account the 9 month gestational period for John the Immerser, plus six months to account for the age difference, that would put the birth of Jesus in either our March or September. This does not mean, however, that we should pick a day in these months to celebrate the birth of Jesus, because there is no authority for which to do so. Also, as a side note, why would sheep be out in the pasture in the dead of winter (Luke 2:8ff)?

Then, as far as the observance of Christmas. If one wishes to celebrate Christmas as a time to gather with friends and family to share a meal and exchange gifts, there is nothing wrong with such. The only exception to this would be if there is a brother with a weak conscience who would be offended by such (Rom. 14). So, there is nothing wrong with observing Christmas in this way. We have seen that not only do we have **no authority** for celebrating Christmas as the birth of Jesus, it is incorrect to say that He was born on what we know as December 25<sup>th</sup>.

# RON'S REMINDERS



## LOST

Most of us have heard the parable of the Lost Sheep. It is mentioned twice in the Bible. Once in Matthew and once in Luke. Everything mentioned in the Bible is important but for it to be mentioned in two different Gospels must mean that it is a critical example of what we should do as Christians.

Jesus told this story to help give us an example of the love and compassion that God has for every person.

When a shepherd loses a sheep, what does he do? Does he say, "Well, I still have the majority of my flock so this one sheep will not matter?" Does he say, "That one has been with the flock for a long time so I'm sure that he knows how to make it on his own?"

Of course, neither of the above scenarios represent what a true shepherd would do. This shepherd would stop whatever he was doing and go out into the wilderness and bring back that one sheep who lost its way. Even if the sheep had not fully gotten lost, the shepherd would be there to guide it right back on the path it is supposed to be on.

As children of God, we are to be Christlike in all our actions. When we have a member of the church that goes astray and wanders down the wrong path of life, we need to stop and immediately try to rescue that person from the temptations that have dragged them down.

Matthew 18: 13-14 reminds us of how important it is to our Father in Heaven that we bring home that lost soul. God does not want any of us to perish. He wants everyone to be saved and the only way to do that is through Jesus.

Over the past few months, many congregations have not been meeting in person. There are many

people, because of this, that have become lazy in their worship. With worship services being postponed, canceled, and shortened; there are hundreds that have been overtaken by the world because of their inability to be with their Christian family.

We are all sheep and sometimes we venture down the wrong paths of life. Some people stumble down deeper embankments than others but no matter how steep the grade, we often need help to get back on the path to Christ. We need that one shepherd to come looking for us and help us.

Although many of us are not overseers of a flock, we all are responsible for bringing people to Christ. When we see a lost soul, a wanderer, we need to go out and help them back on the right path. There are many out there right now who have lost their desire to worship because of the pandemic. When that happens, God will be rejoicing with all.

- \*Has the pandemic caused you to lose your drive to worship?
- \*Has the world snuck into your life over the past few months and caused you to lose focus on what is most important?
- \*Has anything come between you and your relationship with Christ?

If you have answered yes to any of the above, let this be our plea for you to come back to Him now before it is too late. We love you and want to pray for you.

**God Is Good ...**