

December.

Dec 24 Devotional at Homestead Assisted Living Center; 3:00pm

Dec 31 Devotional at Homestead Assisted Living Center; 3:00pm

Dec 31 New Years Eve Party; 6:00 in the Fellowship Room

NEW YEAR'S EVE "EARLY BIRD" PARTY

Join us as we celebrate NYE 2024, Sunday December 31 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Room! We will have an "early bird" countdown at 9:00 p.m. for those who can't make it until midnight. Bring a couple of snacks and your favorite games to share! See Wes or Kendall for more info.

TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE JESUS CAME

'Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house

Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.

Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care

In hopes that Jesus would not come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed,

Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.

And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap

Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.

When out of the East there arose such a clatter,

I sprang to my feet to see what was The matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash

Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!

When what to my wondering eyes should appear

But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.

With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray

I knew in a moment this must be The Day!

The light of His face made me cover my head

It was Jesus! Returning just like He had said.

And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth

I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.

In the Book of Life which He held in His Hand

Was written the name of every saved man.

He spoke not a word as He searched for my name;

When He said "It's not here" My head hung in shame!

The people whose names had been written with love

He gathered to take to His Father above.

With those who were ready He rose without a sound

While all the rest were left standing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too late;

I had waited too long and this sealed my fate.

I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight;

Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.

In the words of this poem the meaning is clear;

The coming of Jesus is drawing near.

There's only one life and when comes the last call

We'll find that the Bible was true after ALL!

FROM THE PREACHERS DESK

Good Song...but Wrong Thinking

I couldn't help but notice a line in the famous song, "Away in a Manger," this week that I've never really paid attention to before. The third verse says,

The cattle are lowing

The poor baby wakes

But little Lord Jesus

No crying He makes

I have no problem believing that a cow may have awakened the Lord Jesus, but the, *No crying He makes*, is the line that takes it a bit too far for me.

Some have the idea that the Lord Jesus was not fully human. I admit that it is an impossibility in our minds to comprehend how Jesus could be both fully God and fully human at the same time, but that doesn't mean that it wasn't true.

But more than it being true, what did His humanness imply? I think the Scripture tells us enough. For one, the Bible gives us the miraculous birth of Jesus and all of the events surrounding it. Then we fast forward to a snapshot of Him as a pre-teen in the Temple amazing the teachers of Israel.

But after, Jesus lived such a normal, non-descript human life, that when He began to reveal Himself and start His ministry, everyone was shocked. Who did this uneducated nobody from a small no-account village think that He was? Nobody, from observing His life, suspected He was anything more than an average Jewish man.

We also see his humanity in his need for sleep. He was once so exhausted that He fell asleep in a boat in the middle of a terrible storm. We see his humanity in his hunger. We see his humanity in his tears. What does all of this mean though? It means that in His humanity, He had no supernatural advantages that He took advantage of. In fact, the Apostle Paul tells us in Philippians 2:5-8,

⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself...

Though He was equal with God, He didn't exercise His supernatural rights. As a man, He embraced His humanness. Why would He do such

Prayer List: Tim Evans, Phil Hennig, Claire Norris, Marvin Kline, Gary Bodine, David & Rita Carroll, Bob & Beth Brownlee, Richard Wartick, Eliza Conwell, Larry Helton, Julie DeSoignie, Kylie Lock

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the great bunch of kids that came by with the goodies and then sang so beautifully. Love you all! Martha Howell

SOME DEFINITIONS OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas is the **light** that burns eternally. It is a glow that warms the heart of people whenever the message of "Peace on earth to men goodwill" is believed.

Christmas is **peace** in a world where people have been alienated from each other by hatred and jealousy.

Christmas is **love** that flows from one heart to another.

Christmas is the **joy** of brotherhood of giving, of sharing, of lifting, of caring and of being what Christ wants us to be.

Christmas is **forgiveness**, the time for fresh beginnings, a time to right the wrongs of yesterday.

Christmas is **giving** to those who cannot give to us. It is visiting the neglected, lifting the fallen, giving hope to the hopeless, assuring victory to the defeated, living the spirit of good will to all mankind.

Christmas is the **surrender** of one's life to Christ in renewed dedication, making Christ the Lord of our lives. —Selected

(continued)

a thing? He did this so He could relate to us. He did this so He could fully feel what we feel, which includes all of the limitations of being fully human.

What a wonderful savior we have who can relate to us, but even greater, who did not take any supernatural action against his attackers so that He could be the great atoning sacrifice for our sins.

So while I believe that it's a very good possibility that the little Lord Jesus was woke up by a lowing cow, I certainly do not believe that He did not cry. The Christ-child was fully God, but He was also fully human, and the cry of a baby is God's design to let mamma know her little one has a need.

Much love and Merry Christmas!

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Merry Christmas



