

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK	
10:50 a.m. Service -----	Cradle Roll 1: Volunteer Needed! Cradle Roll : Volunteer Needed!
6:30 p.m. Service -----	Cradle Roll 1: Kristi Hooper Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!
Wed. Evening Service -----	Cradle Roll 1: Shirley White Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of November 19, 2017 -

Sunday School -----	17
Sunday Morning Service -----	28
Sunday Evening Service -----	18
Wed. Eve. Service, 11/22/17 -----	23

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of November 19, 2017 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 771.02
Total Received for Week of 11/19/17: -----	\$ 771.02

- Week of November 12, 2017 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 841.32
Total Received for Week of 11/12/17: -----	\$ 841.32

- Week of November 5, 2017 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$1,130.70
Building Fund -----	\$ 20.00
Total Received for Week of 11/05/17: -----	\$1,150.70

- Week of October 29, 2017 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$1,194.65
Building Fund -----	\$ 48.00
Total Received for Week of 10/29/17: -----	\$1,242.65

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed
to operate the church EACH WEEK,
as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00

NEEDED!



**DOORKEEPER
FOR THE HOUSE
OF GOD**

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. *Admit that you are a sinner.*
2. *Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.*
3. *Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.*
4. *You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).*
5. *By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.*



Please Remember To Be Faithful To Give!

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go **up**. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start **today - OK?** Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White -----	Pastor
Mickie Shatwell -----	Pianist
Lois Mae Floyd -----	Pianist/ Organist
NEED VOLUNTEER!!!!	Greeter
Shayne Hooper, Brian Crawford, Charity Crawford, LeAnna White -- S.S. Teachers	
Larry & Mary Byars, -----	Outreach
Bertha Segebart -----	Custodian
Flowers -----	Shirley White, Charity Crawford

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY

REMINDER

Volume XXIII

November 26, 2017

Number 42



What About Santa Claus?

Every year, many sincere Christians ask their pastors,

"What's wrong with telling your kids that Santa Claus is real?"

Once I was asked this question by a member of a church I pastored at the time. After a lengthy discussion, I didn't get very far. It seems that I could not get across to this person that it is not acceptable to lie to our children for any reason. Nor could I make clear the plain truth that, later in life, Satan could easily deceive a child by using the fact that his parents lied to him about Santa Claus to make him doubt whether or not they lied to him about Jesus Christ.

Though well meaning, I am certain that our sweet member left feeling that I was some sort of an extremist nut. I left that conversation feeling as though I had failed to communicate effectively the need to keep the real reason we celebrate Christmas - to commemorate Christ's birth - in the forefront of the holiday season.

A few days later, I came across this little article by the late Dr. Bill Rice. It is reprinted here by permission for your edification. Perhaps Dr. Bill will do a better job of presenting these truths than did I.

Should Children Be Taught About Santa Claus, Easter Bunnies and Good Fairies?

Q: I have a problem that in recent days has caused me to question my stand.

I was raised in a Christian home and have been saved for several years. My husband is an unsaved church member and doesn't take a stand for or against anything.

I have never taught our children to believe Santa Claus brings Christmas presents or that good fairies leave money for teeth. To me, Christmas is the start of a home in Heaven. I could not believe Christ died if I did not believe He was born. I have received lots of laughs and criticism for this belief. I never paid it any thought until our music director, a student of a great Bible college, laughed and told me how silly I was not to tell my children about Santa Claus, etc.

How do you feel? How did you teach your family when they were growing up? Can I teach my children to love and serve God if I also teach them things that I must tell lots of lies about?

A: My good friend, you are another who is going to cause me a lot of trouble! When I answer this, I'm going to get letters from irate preachers, angry parents, and outraged businessmen. If ever in my life I have wished I were a man of tact, I wish it now. But I do not know any honest way to answer your letter that will also sound kind and make everyone love me.

So - you ask a plain question, and you deserve a plain answer, and here it is -

Any Christian who teaches little children the fable that there is a Santa Claus is, at best, incredibly thoughtless and shallow.

(continued inside)

How blind one must be not to realize that the Christian who tells children about Santa Claus is bypassing the Gospel of Christ that brings salvation just as much as a modernist (liberal) who teaches that the Bible story is not true.

Surely nothing could please Satan more than for Christians to talk about Santa Claus, Easter bunnies, and good fairies rather than about Jesus Christ.

The Devil Wanted A Detour

Satan tried to keep Jesus from going to the cross in the first place. On the Mount of Temptation, Satan offered Christ the kingdoms of the world without a crucifixion. In the Garden of Gethsemane, I believe Satan tried to kill Jesus and thus prevent His going to the cross. When Simon Peter insisted that Jesus should not die, the Saviour significantly said, *“Get thee behind me, Satan.”*

The idea that Jesus should not die on the cross for sinners was clearly of the Devil.



Substituting Something Good for the Gospel

Today, Satan wants to substitute something else for the Gospel of Christ.

Perhaps the most beautiful story ever told is the true story of how Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary in the little town of Bethlehem. Angels sang to the shepherds to announce the Saviour's birth. Surely there is no more beautiful story in all the world than this. Christmas is the day set aside by Christians to commemorate this great event.

But, little by little, the fictitious story of Santa Claus has become a tradition. In many places it has been substituted for the true story of the birth of Christ. In almost all places, it is at least on an equal with the story of Jesus. One may walk down the streets of a great city at Christmastime and hear “Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer” sung in the same collection with “O Little Town of Bethlehem.”

Many Christian parents tell their children the Santa Claus fable because it is a cute story and an entertaining one. Many do not dream that they are actually aiding the Devil by substituting a lie for the truth. Parents tell the Santa Claus fable lightheartedly while telling themselves that Junior will soon realize that it is not a true story, and when he is older he will understand that the

Santa Claus fable was just a beautifully-told tale and not the truth.

So, what harm is done? A great deal. *Every time the Santa Claus story is told - the true story of Jesus is NOT told!* And the emphasis is on Santa Claus rather than on Christ.

After all, how many times have you ever heard someone ask a little child, “What will you be given for Christmas in Jesus' name?” Actually, I doubt if I have ever heard that question in all my life! But I have heard, “What is Santa Claus going to bring you for Christmas?”

There certainly no honor to Jesus Christ in that!

I certainly do not object to the giving of gifts to loved ones at Christmastime. I love Christmas and think it is fitting and right for us to give gifts to our loved ones in the spirit of Christ who gave Himself for us; but I am dead set against telling little children that gifts come from Santa Claus when the Bible says, *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights . . .”* (James 1:17).

What About Easter?

Easter is a day on which Christians commemorate the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The importance of His resurrection is absolutely impossible to overestimate or over-realize. Paul wrote in *I Corinthians 15:16-19:*

“For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.”

How foolish, then, for any Christian to add silly stories of the Easter Bunny laying eggs right along with the true and vitally important story of Jesus being raised from the dead! Easter ought not to be a time when the primary thoughts of any Christian have to do with Easter eggs, colored chicks, baby ducks, little rabbits or new clothes. Even though the stories may be cute and the clothes attractive, we are shallow to allow ourselves to be duped by Satan to share the Gospel story with these things.

Any Substitute Suits Satan

Just about anything that is used as a substitute for the Gospel is satisfactory to Satan.

It must be a matter of great satisfaction to Satan that many orthodox churches have become so engrossed with stained-glass windows, a beautiful “sanctuary” and a stiff, formal service that soul winning is no longer on the agenda.

Not only should a Christian be careful always to tell the truth - and stories about Santa Claus, Easter rabbits, and good fairies are definitely not truthful - but he ought to be careful never to let anything detract from the story of Christ. 9

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

K CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANS LOVING THE WORLD PASSIONATELY

- We received some timely information and video clips this week from Jeff Royal that dramatically illustrates the worldliness of many contemporary churches. The first video clip Jeff sent is of “Christian entertainer” Tim Hawkins singing “On Eagles’ Wings” during a concert late last year. Hawkins says he used to sing this song at church youth camp. It is a combination of “Amazing Grace” by John Newton and “Peaceful Easy Feeling” popularized by the secular rock band the **Eagles**. Hawkins sings it as a tribute to the late Glenn Frey, founding member and lead singer of the Eagles.

This is an illicit and wicked merger of Christ and the world. “Peaceful Easy Feeling” is about romance and fornication. The lyrics begin, “I like the way your sparklin’ earrings lay against your skin so brown; I want to sleep with you in the desert tonight with a billion stars all around.” The singer is not talking about holy matrimony, friends! John Newton represented the “old” born again conversion Christianity that dramatically changes one’s life and turns one from love of the world to love of the holy Christ. But Tim Hawkins represents a “new” Christianity that is described in

II Timothy 4:3-4, a live after your own lusts Christianity.

The second video clip that Jeff sent was of a church using “On Eagles’ Wings” in a worship service. There was nothing righteous about the Eagles; their influence on society was evil. Some of their hit songs are “Witchy Woman,” “Chug All Night,” “Take the Devil,” “Tequila Sunrise,” “Good Day in Hell,” “Journey of the Sorcerer.” After the Eagles broke up in 1980, Frey pursued a solo career with hits such as “Sexy Girl” and “The Heat Is On.”

God plainly commands His people to not love the world (I John 2:15-17), to be not conformed to the world (Romans 12:1-2), to not be the friend of the world (James 4:4), and to have no fellowship with the darkness of the world (Ephesians 5:11), but contemporary churches brazenly ignore these warnings. In fact, love of the world is one of their chief characteristics. They love the world’s music, the world’s attitude, the world’s fashions, the world’s entertainment, and the world’s “judge not” philosophy. They sing of “grace,” but it is not biblical grace. It is Antinomian license. The true grace of God is defined in Titus 2:11-14. The true grace of God doesn’t save the sinner so that he can love the world; it saves the sinner so that he will “deny ungodliness and worldly lusts.” Contemporary Christian Music is a major bridge to the “contemporary church,” and pastors that are not properly educating their people on this issue and effectively fighting this battle are bridge builders.

K HILLSONG PASTOR REFUSED TO CONDEMN ABORTION

- In a recent interview, Carl Lentz, co-pastor of Hillsong New York, refused to condemn abortion as sin. When Lentz was asked whether he believes abortion is wrong. He replied, “That’s the kind of conversation we would have finding

out your story, where you’re from, what you believe. I mean, God’s the judge. People have to live to their own convictions” (“Hillsong Pastor,” ChristianHeadlines.com, Nov. 7, 2017).

This is moral relativism. The man is not a Bible preacher; he’s a psychological therapist. Every preacher is commanded to reprove, rebuke, and exhort (II Timothy 4:2). All of God’s people are commanded, *“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them”* (Ephesians 5:11). As for God being the judge, how true that is. He is the Judge, and He has already judged on this issue.

Consider some clear and simple biblical truths:

First, God is in control of conception (Genesis 20:18; 29:31; 30:22). Second, God forms the child in the womb (Psalm 139:13-16). Third, God forbids man to shed innocent blood (Deuteronomy 19:10-13; 2 Kings 21:16). Fourth, the unborn is not a “fetus”; it is called a “child” and an “infant” in the Bible (Genesis 25:22; Job 3:16). Fifth, God’s law requires punishment if an unborn child is harmed (Exodus 21:22-23). The Bible teaches that the unborn child does not belong to the mother; it belongs to the Creator. The infant in a woman’s womb is a separate body and a separate life. In an interview with CNN in 2014, Laura Lentz, Carl’s wife and “co-pastor,” spoke to the issue of homosexuality by saying, “It’s not our place to tell anyone how they should live, it’s--that’s their journey.” In their haste to be the world’s friend, Hillsong has made itself the enemy of God (James 4:4). They are the poster children for the apostasy described in II Timothy 4:3-4: *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables”*.

GIFTS OF THE MODERN WISE MEN



Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.—Romans 1:22