

REMINDER

Volume XXIII

December 3, 2017

Number 43



The Meaning of Christmas

by Dr. Robert G. Lee (1886–1978)

“The dayspring from on high hath visited us.” - Luke 1:78

The birth of a little Child the Christian world at this season celebrates. Christmas Day is a holy and happy day when we commemorate the coming of God’s Son into the world—the incarnation of God by way of the virgin birth. Never too happily can we sing. Never too eagerly can we ring the bells. Never with exaggeration can we express the Christmas benediction: *“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).*

With the coming of the *“dayspring from on high,”* morning broke upon the world’s darkness—in Bethlehem—while men and women, bruised and bleeding, were in a darkness unlighted by flickering philosophical tapers and sputtering Judaistic lamps.

“Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given” (Isa. 9:6). This prediction—most clear in application, most glorious in content, most consolatory in design, most gracious in purpose—points us to the time when God’s Son assumed our nature, entering the world in circumstances of deepest humiliation.

With every detail of the Christmas story we are familiar: Herod of Judah, the last of Judah’s kings; Israel, breathing her hope of Messiah’s advent; Bethlehem, small and white upon its mountain slopes where Heaven put out its brightest star; Cyrenius, publishing the order of the emperor; the star, seen in faraway Persia by wise men of the East who were accustomed to study the heavens and who mounted their camels and journeyed westward over the desert to Jerusalem; the angels; the shepherds; the Babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger; the gifts from the wise men of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

What is the meaning, we ask, of Christmas to the world?

I. CHRIST IS A MANIFESTATION

Though Christmas is the celebration of the advent of Christ into the world by human birth, nobody should believe that Christmas marks the beginning of Christ, because the Son who rested on the bosom and fed at the breast of the virgin Mary for a little while had, before this world was, rested on the bosom of the Father—before *“God sent forth his Son, made of a woman” (Gal. 4:4).* Jesus had glory with God before the world was (John 17:5).

Jesus Himself said, *“Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world” (John 17:24).*

His incarnation was literally an “enfleshment”—God assumed a living, bodily form. The Child of Mary was of the Holy Ghost. The power of the Highest overshadowed her. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, that body was formed within her—a body that partook of sin of neither man nor woman. And that body was God.

“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory” (I Tim. 3:16).

“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh” (Rom. 8:3).

(continued inside)

The apostle Peter speaks of Christ who *“hath once suffered for sins”* and who was *“put to death in the flesh” (I Pet. 3:18).* God’s “enfleshment” in Christ means that the preexistent Christ was embodied in human flesh, demonstrated in human life, exemplified in human action, crystallized in human form. That Child Jesus was the Saviour in miniature, in whom, without restriction of essence or suppression of functions, dwelt *“all the fulness of the Godhead bodily” (Col. 2:9).*

Christ was God manifest in the flesh—and His every muscle was a pulley divinely swung; His every nerve, divine handwriting; His every bone, divine sculpture. Christ who shares that plurality of deity expressed in the story of creation was “made flesh” and “made of a woman.”

II. CHRISTMAS MEANS A MANGER

Coldly the world, which later cruelly thrust Jesus out on the point of a spear, received Jesus on a pallet of manger straw. Messiah’s birth chamber was a stable—not a palace, not a human habitation.

What abasement! How wonderful for us that the Lord of Glory was so humbled and abased for us, the vile and sinful progeny of Adam. Thinking of Christ stripping Himself of His robes and roles of glory, Flavel said, *“If the sun had been turned into a wandering atom, if the most glorious angel in heaven had changed into a fly, it had been nothing to the abasement of the Lord of Glory.”*

Born as the very poorest are born, without attendants, He was the One through whom God worked and works sublimities without display.

Listen at the manger! You will hear the voices of Heaven’s singers.

Look upon the manger! You will see the Christ who came down from the heights of deity to the depths of humanity, down from Heaven’s honors to earth’s humiliation, down from Heaven’s coronations to earth’s curses, down from Heaven’s delights to earth’s defamations, down from the glory place to the gory place, down from Heaven’s riches to earth’s poverty.

At the manger, we understand the apostle’s words: *“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich” (II Cor. 8:9).*

III. CHRISTMAS MEANS A MARKING

The lowly birthplace of Jesus was marked by a star.

“When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy” (Matt. 2:9,10).

That star marking the house to which the wise men from the East came testifies that the fullness of time had come, that the prophecies were accomplished, that He who had a name *“as ointment poured forth”* had come with a coming that stirred

earth and Heaven, the sea and the dry land. For no other child did the heavens assume a new star. For no other child did wise men come from the East “to worship him” (Matt. 2:2). For no other child did angels descend from glory. For no other child did Heaven and earth bear witness—being marked by prophecy and a star.

But I mean something else by the marking. What mean I? I mean that this Christ, coming into the world by virgin womb, small enough to be held in a woman’s two hands and weak enough to feed at a woman’s breast, cradled in a manger, has Christianized the calendar of the world.

This Jesus, whom neither calendars nor clocks nor contemporary historians took note of, has bent the datelines of all nations around His lowly cradle. Today, as through all the days of all the years the world over, the dates on newspapers printed, the dates on checks drawn, the dates on deeds recorded, the dates on money coined or spent, the dates on cornerstones placed, the dates on monuments erected, the dates on documents filed, the dates on letters written, do testify.

The Greeks tried to date time from their Olympiads.

The Romans tried to date time from the founding of their imperial city.

Justinian tried to date time from the tax levies he made.

Laplace tried to date time from conjunctions of certain planets.

The French Revolutionists tried to date time from the year one of their revolution.

And all failed—miserably, woefully. But what the Jews could not do, what the Greeks could not do, what the Romans could not do, what the French could not do in the matter of dating time, *Jesus did gloriously!* Before He came, the ages awaited Him. Since He came, the ages rise out of Him.

IV. CHRISTMAS MEANS MUSIC

“And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them” (Luke 2:20).

As the sun went down in the western sea that day, the stars came out, and the Messiah’s star shone bright. As the temple shepherds watched their flocks by night, in the midst of the starlit silence appeared a glory—and a voice.

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, 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 Saviour, which is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:8–11).

The shepherds, filled with awe at the shining presence and the wondrous words, did not speak. Moving not, they gazed. And then suddenly, as they looked, the single messenger became a choir, and the night echoed with divinest music.

“And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds”.

- Luke 2:16–18

As there was music long ago when “upon the midnight clear” came “that glorious song of old,” so still at Christmas there is music.

*Still thro’ the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats
O’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lonely plains
They bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.*

- Edmund H. Sears

Let us listen to the Christmas music, vocal and instrumental, and remember that the Christian life is music in harmony with the will of God. Let us never forget that the centuries become, as it were, a mighty choir lifting their increasing hallelujahs to Christ’s name. Higher and even higher rises their sublime refrain.

But, with all the Christmas joy, the Christmas greetings, the Christmas merrymaking, and though many now rejoice because the true Light shineth, for some.

V. CHRISTMAS MEANS MOURNING

Related tragically are these verses:

“When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wrath, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not” (Matt. 2:3,16–18).

So, though not for the same cause, we find amid the glad ones whom we greet at Christmas, the sad ones. There are those who rejoice. There are those who weep. Some mourn the loss of loved ones.

While some laugh beneath the mistletoe, some grieve beside coffins or over graves.

While some faces are as bright as fires aglow on home hearthstones, some faces are shadowed with intangible gloom.

While some rejoice and are grateful for abounding health, some pine mournfully because of wasted, disease-smitten bodies.

And some have not joy because they have not the righteousness which Christ, as Saviour, first imputes and then imparts.

And some have not joyful peace because they know not the peace which Jesus, who was born to save His people from their sins, makes and then bestows.

Some have not joy because they have not learned in the light of the “dayspring from on high” their sinfulness and have not returned to Him for salvation.

Some find Christmas a time of mourning because they have no calm in their conscience. The heavenly wind has not blown upon them amid life’s fretful fevers.

So many miss the joy because they set not their feet in the path of the just, which **“shineth more and more unto the perfect day” (Prov. 4:18)**. Yes, Christmas for many means mourning.

VI. CHRISTMAS MEANS MEETING

In the birth of Jesus, Heaven and earth meet. Coleridge, speaking of philosophy, said: “In wonder all philosophy began, in wonder all philosophy ends, and admiration fills up the interspace.” Thinking of Jesus’ natal night, of Bethlehem, of the angels, of the inn in which there was no room for the Prince of Glory, of the cattle stall in which He was born, of the fact that He was God held in a woman’s arms, of those who **“wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds” (Luke 2:18)**, we say, in the words of Shakespeare: “O wonderful, wonderful, and most wonderful wonderful! and yet again wonderful.”

Heaven and earth meet. Shepherds served and angels sang. We read of “shepherds abiding in the field,” “the angel of the Lord” and “a multitude of the heavenly host.” The angels went back to Heaven. The shepherds went to Bethlehem. Heaven and earth were in touch, and Heaven took the initiative. The candle did not reach forth to the sun; the sun stooped to the candle. The glowworm did not reach up to the stars; the star stooped to touch the glowworm. Humanity did not seek God; God sought humanity. **“He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all” (John 3:31)**.

He who is from Heaven and is above all is Heaven’s Bread for earth’s hunger, Heaven’s Light for earth’s darkness, Heaven’s Grace for earth’s guilt, Heaven’s Life for earth’s death.

And during the days of His flesh on earth, this Christ never lifted a finger, never took a step, never breathed a word to injure any. He welcomed to His love the most neglected of the outcast, the poorest of the poor, the saddest of the sad, the vilest of the vile, inviting them to His holy and happy home in Heaven.

But—’tis sad, ’tis true—

VII. CHRISTMAS MEANS A MARRING

I mean by “marring” that men mar the beauty of Christmas by riotous living rather than by reverence of the holy realities which the Christmas season brings to mind. Instead of worship, wickedness; instead of prayer, perversity; instead of devotion, drunkenness; instead of spiritual delight, carnal dancing; instead of expressions of gratitude, utterances of profane and vulgar thoughts; instead of peace, Mars tying crepe to many doorknobs;

instead of consecration, carnality and love, by hellish alchemy, changed into lust; instead of hands handling the Bible, hands holding booze bottles; instead of gratitude, greed and grab and get.

As incongruous as chunks of ice for pillows, as rattlesnakes on playgrounds, are many things we see and hear at Christmastime. So many things people do and rejoice in at Christmas season are as man’s mean paint on God’s fair lilies, as the stupidity of vandals in an art gallery.

Yes, poor understanding have many of the meaning of Christmas. At Christmastime we should remember that **“the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Titus 2:11,12)**.

Last of all,

VIII. CHRISTMAS MEANS THE MASTER

This Christ whom the disciples called Master is He who, in eternity, rested on the bosom of the Father without a mother, and in time rested on the bosom of a mother without a father—Son of Man and Son of God, just as old as His Heavenly Father and ages older than His earthly mother. He who was in the manger later mastered disease into health, blindness into sight, deafness into hearing, lameness into suppleness and strength of muscles, leprosy into cleanness, storms into calm, scarcity of bread into food plenteous, dumbness into speech, death into life and grace into resurrection glory.

He mastered sin, Satan, suffering, death, the grave and Hell. And through Him we can be more than conquerors, mastering all things that mar proper observance of Christmas, mastering the mind so that it thinks God’s thoughts after Him, mastering Satan by resistance until he flees from us, mastering our bodies until we shall be **“always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body” (II Cor. 4:10)** to the glory of Him who **“being in the form of God...made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant...and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Phil. 2:6–8)**.

At this Christmas season, every heart ought to say, **“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift” (II Cor. 9:15)**. You did not ask God for this gift; it was freely bestowed.

At this Christmas season, will you receive presents from earthly friends and reject the gift of God? Base ingratitude! You can commit no greater sin than that of rejecting Jesus Christ. Everything you ever did fades into insignificance in the face of your refusal of the gift of God. Confess your utter worthlessness and simply accept the Lord Jesus Christ, God’s “unspeakable gift.”

At this Christmas season, we may not bring Him as costly a present as the Magi brought, but we can bring to His feet and cradle the frankincense of our joy, the pearls of our tears, the kiss of our love, the prostration of our worship; we can move someone to faith in Him, and give testimony that Jesus, our Saviour, our

Lord, is Son of Man without sin, Son of God with power and glory, whose name is ceaseless music at the throne which overlooks the world. †

America Is Apostate and the Preachers Are to Blame

by Evangelist David Cloud

America is apostate.

America is not dead. America is not finished. America is still “the greatest nation on God’s green earth,” as one prominent talk radio host says. America still has more true Christians than any other nation. America is still a friend of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and their seed. America is still a land of liberty, though her priceless freedoms are being lost bit by bit, day by day. America still has great strength, and petty dictators would do well not to arouse her anger.

But as a nation, America has rejected the blessed God of her fathers.

America has turned from the true and living God in a most terrible way. She mocks the fear of God. She despises God’s holy laws. She glories in everything that is abominable before God. She retains a “form of godliness” even while denying the power thereof, that power being a born again converted life and an infallible Bible and an omnipotent God. As a whole, America is grossly ignorant of the Bible, but if she knew it, she would not like it.

The root problem is the preachers. We got to this place because of the pulpits. As in Jeremiah’s day in Israel of old, it is from the prophets that profaneness has gone forth into the land (Jeremiah 23:15).

America’s preachers stopped looking for the born again salvation experience that we see everywhere in Scripture and accepted an empty “sinner’s prayer,” even from children, thus filling up the churches with unconverted people whose worldly lives are merely slathered with a bit of religion.

America’s preachers stopped rebuking sin and error and turned to preaching smooth things (Isaiah 30:10). Instead of the rebuking preachers of Second Timothy 4:2, America has the “itching ear scratching” teachers of Second Timothy 4:3-4. Those are the preachers she wants.

America’s preachers stopped enforcing God’s standards of holy living by discipline; they have refused to purge out the old leaven of wickedness (I Corinthians 5:6-8), either not believing or not caring that “a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.”

America’s preachers stopped making true disciples of Jesus Christ after the fashion of the servants of Christ we see in Scripture, and instead have devoted themselves to an enthusiastic pampering of the lukewarm that turn Jesus’ stomach (Revelation 3:16). Toward that end they have converted the holy church of God into a vain entertainment center. (For evidence examine the

average church's calendar.)

America's preachers stopped building up the people in the holy faith of God's Word, stopped training them in the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27), stopped teaching and exhorting them to be skillful in the word of righteousness (Hebrews 5:12-14), and instead have fed them a diet of 2% milk, at best and been content to pastor perpetual spiritual infants. The writer of Hebrews sharply rebuked those who were unskillful in the word of righteousness, but America's pastors honor them as good Christians.

America's preachers stopped roaring against worldliness as spiritual adultery after the fashion of a James, a John, and an Enoch (James 4:4; I John 2:15-17; Jude 14-15) and instead have exalted the worldly crowd to be deacons, Sunday School teachers, choir directors, and youth leaders.

Many Americans still want to consider themselves Christians, but they want to live after their own lusts, which is the very strange kind of Christianity described in Second Timothy 4:3-4. In Israel of old most prophets bent to the people's will and softened the message of God's Word and preached smooth things (Isaiah 30:10). Likewise today, most preachers have wickedly compromised due to pressure from church members and society at large. They fear the people more than they fear God. They are terribly afraid of losing even the most carnal pew sitters and titheers. So they don't preach against rock music or country rock music or pop music stars or raunchy movies or vanities such as professional sports or immodest dress or whatever else the their worldly people might like. They give the people the music they love and the standards they love. They preach whatever the people like to hear and they preach in such a way that the people aren't offended by truth and righteousness. They might preach some truth, but they have learned to do it in such a way (e.g., preaching in generalities) that most people aren't offended and don't stop attending the services and paying the bills.

America is apostate and the preachers are to blame.

I'm sad because of this, but in no way am I discouraged. I know preachers in America and in many countries who don't fit this sorry description, and I know of churches that aren't compromised by the spirit of the age. We are seeing God raise up such preachers through our own missionary work. We are currently working with nearly 20 such preachers. We are training such preachers. We are seeing them go out and start discipling churches rather than mixed multitudes and entertainment centers. These are men that don't skip over repentance or soft sell the truth or ignore discipline.

Our earnest prayer is that God will raise up 1,000 more men who fear God more than man, who love Scripture more than tradition, and who will build and lead sound New Testament churches as bright lights in a dark age.

Will you join me in that prayer every day? If so, I would like to hear from you.

“**For both prophet and priest are profane; yea, in my house have I found their wickedness, saith the LORD**” (Jer. 23:11).

“**Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets; Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall: for from the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the land**” (Jer. 23:15).

“**They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you. For who hath stood in the counsel of the LORD, and hath perceived and heard his word? who hath marked his word, and heard it?**” (Jer. 23:17-18).

“**Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say thou unto them that prophesy out of their own hearts, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing! O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts. Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the LORD. They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The LORD saith: and the LORD hath not sent them: and they have made others to hope that they would confirm the word**” (Eze. 13:2-6).

“**Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; and one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untempered mortar**” (Eze. 13:10).

“**Because with lies ye have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, by promising him life**” (Eze. 13:22).

“**Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us**” (Isa. 30:10-11).

“**But ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink; and commanded the prophets, saying, Prophecy not. Behold, I am pressed under you, as a cart is pressed that is full of sheaves**” (Amos 2:13).

“**Prophecy ye not, say they to them that prophesy: they shall not prophesy to them, that they shall not take shame**” (Micah 2:6).

“**Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 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**” (II Tim. 4:2-4).

IT'S PAST TIME TO PRAY FOR AMERICA!



A Pastor's Wife Breaks Free of Beth Moore: A Testimony

The following testimony was submitted to Pulpit & Pen for publication:

My name is Lauran. I am a Southern Baptist from Tennessee. I walked the aisle to accept Jesus at age 5 but I believe I was truly saved 12 years ago at the age of 21. I am currently the women's Bible study leader at our church as well as the pastor's wife. I have broken free of Beth Moore.

I grew up attending a flagship Southern Baptist Church in Tennessee. It was and is one of the most vibrant churches in the convention; its former and current pastors have been the President of the Southern Baptist Convention and both served on the Baptist Faith and Message Committee. At this faithful church, the Bible was proclaimed as God's inerrant word. Growing up in a church like that, I was often involved in Bible study. One of my favorite Bible study authors was Beth Moore. I was heavily involved in her studies for years. I have seen her speak live multiple times, done countless numbers of her studies and own tons of her books. I'll never forget the day five years ago when my husband informed me that Beth Moore may not be a sound teacher.

My husband had stumbled across the profile on Beth Moore at the Christian Apologetics Research Ministry (CARM) website. Incredulously, my Baptist husband read Matt Slick's negative critique of Beth Moore. He was surprised to see that CARM, one of the most trusted online sources for Christian doctrine, did not recommend participating in Beth Moore studies. He knew she was the darling of Southern Baptist women's studies and a best-selling author at LifeWay. After studying the article, my husband couldn't help but agree with Slick's assessment. The evidence was right there. Beth Moore was not a sound teacher. Sheepishly, he informed me that Beth Moore may not be a sound teacher. I was aghast!

“What?!” I exclaimed. “No Way! Beth Moore is a godly woman.” I had been growing in my knowledge of the word in leaps and bounds over the past few years. I had even attended Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary for a degree in Christian education. It had never been brought up to me in my long Baptist life that Beth Moore, this trusted woman, and leader, might actually be a poor teacher or even a wolf in sheep's clothing! I had always just assumed that what she was teaching was biblical. All of the churches I had ever attended had endorsed and done her studies as part of their women's Bible studies. How could they keep doing her studies if her teaching and actions were unbiblical?!

There was only one way to answer this question. I had really begun to study the Scripture heavily over the past few years and had really begun thirsting for knowledge and wisdom according

to the word. I had to learn for myself, by studying Beth Moore and comparing her to God's Word, if she was truly a sound teacher or if my husband was on to something. Every teacher should be compared to the Word to see if she measures up. I researched Beth Moore for countless hours. I watched her teaching clips online. I checked multiple reliable sources, comparing all I found to Scripture. It led me to a shocking conclusion - **Beth was not teaching sound doctrine.**

It felt as though I was breaking up with an old friend. Beth Moore and I had to part ways. Some old things I had heard her say over the years kept coming to my mind. I specifically remember the bizarre story that she shares about the handicapped man in the wheelchair. Apparently God “told her” she needed to go and brush the man's hair. That was the first time I remember hearing about her “special revelations” from God.

A more recent example was when God gave her a vision while sitting on her porch and a message to give to the whole body of Christ; she was supposed to tell the church this message, “my bride is paralyzed by unbelief.”

According to Beth, she is God's divine instrument and He is giving her extra-biblical revelation to give to the whole church. The errors just continued from there. Aside from all the exegetical errors in her teaching and the extra-biblical revelations, she promotes the dangerous mystical practice of contemplative prayer. She claims Catholicism is part of the Christian church! She has no problem teaching men. She has even recently aligned herself with Joyce Meyer and Joel Osteen, attending and speaking at conferences at his Lakewood church.

Beth Moore seems to be on a downward slope and she is getting farther and farther away from Scripture. Let me remind you that there are parts of her teaching are biblically sound. Additionally, the statement of faith at her church and her Living Proof mission statement make her appear as if she is biblical. Remember how Satan works - just a little bit of false teaching, sprinkled in with a lot of biblical truth, can look good to the masses but it's ultimate a clever deception. As Paul told the Galatians, “A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.” (Gal. 5:9)

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Finding out that one of my favorite Bible study authors was a false teacher was bad enough. However, what was worse was the reaction I got from others when I shared the news. When I found out the truth about Beth Moore, I absolutely could not keep it to myself and let other women get swept away in her personality cult and false teachings. I wanted to obey Paul's command to the church - **“And have no fellowship with the**

unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Eph. 5:11). Yet, many of my Christian friends did not want to listen to my warnings. I received comments such as “you are hurting the body” and “you are hurting women.” I was told that I was wrong and judgmental. These comments were not just coming from my local Christian circle of women but even by leaders at very large Southern Baptist churches. A youth pastor at the flagship church called me divisive! I wonder if he has even read any Beth Moore books. Who was I to call out a well-known teacher like Beth Moore?! Almost everyone seemed to immediately jump to Beth’s defense without even checking the facts or looking at Scripture! Even close family and friends were very resistant and offended at the idea that Beth Moore was not a sound teacher. I knew there was no turning back, I had to take a stand even if it meant I was hated and shunned. That’s part of deciding to follow Jesus. As the old hymn goes, “No turning back, no turning back.”

If you are a woman who has discovered the truth about Beth Moore and chosen to speak out, be prepared to be shunned by the women and men at your church and possibly even your pastor. Though it seems more people have recently begun to acknowledge her errors, the vast majority of women are still on the Beth Moore band wagon simply because they have always done her studies at their church. People don’t like to question what they have always done. Beth Moore has earned her spot at the top of every Christian book store and in every SBC church as part of the ladies’ bible studies. When tradition is bucked by Scripture, it is never received well; just look at the example of Jesus and the Pharisees! I feel the teaching commonly accepted by women today is exceptionally bad. Maybe it’s due to the fact that, as women, we like to connect with people on an emotional level; we like to hear people that touch us and motivate us. Beth Moore certainly uses her charismatic personality to do just that. She uses her personality to her advantage so that she can connect with women and in turn sweep them away.

I pray if you are a woman reading this article that you will not just take my word for it but will be discerning and seek the Scriptures and “test the spirits” as it says in I John 4:1 to see if Beth Moore lines up with God’s word or if she is leading women astray. If you do, you will soon find she falls far short. No one is a perfect teacher, but Beth Moore is a bad teacher, and one who claims to be a prophet.

As the women’s bible study leader at our church, I will not allow or promote any Beth Moore studies. We as teachers are held more accountable as to what we present to our sisters in Christ as acceptable, sound doctrine. My prayer in sharing this testimony with you is that women everywhere would not allow themselves to be swept away by Beth Moore or any other teacher that simply appeals to their emotions but does not conform to every part of Scripture. Let us break free from Beth Moore choose to only sit under those who rightly divide the Word!

- from Pulpit & Pen
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I'M SPENDING CHRISTMAS WITH JESUS CHRIST THIS YEAR

***I see the countless Christmas trees
around the world below;
With tiny lights like Heaven's stars
reflecting on the snow.***

***The sight is so spectacular -
please wipe away that tear;
For I am spending Christmas
with Jesus Christ this year.***

***I hear the many Christmas songs
that people hold so dear;
But the sounds of music can't compare
with the Christmas Choir up here.***

***For I have no words to tell you
the joy their voices bring;
It is beyond description
to hear the angels sing.***

***I know how much you miss me,
but please remember dear,
That I am spending Christmas
with Jesus Christ this year.***

***I cannot tell you of the splendor
of the peace inside this place;
Can you just imagine Christmas
with Our Saviour, face to face?***

***I will ask Him to light your spirit
as I tell Him of your love;
So pray for one another
as you lift your eyes above.***

***Please let your hearts be joyful
and let your spirit sing;
For I spending Christmas in Heaven
and walking with the King!***

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Bertha Segebarrt
Cradle Roll : Volunteer Needed!
6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Volunteer Needed!
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 26, 2017 -

Sunday School ----- 16
Sunday Morning Service ----- 28
Sunday Evening Service ----- 24
Wed. Eve. Service, 11/29/17 ----- 20

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of November 26, 2017 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 425.06
Total Received for Week of 11/26/17: \$ 425.06

- Week of November 19, 2017 -

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

- Week of November 12, 2017 -

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

- Week of November 5, 2017 -

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

***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 Segebarrt ----- Custodian
Flowers ----- Shirley White, Charity Crawford