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THE BAPTIST HERITAGE

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The Story of Christmas According To The Apostle John

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. [This John is John the Baptist of whom John the Apostle writes.] The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own,

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this and that

Editors
 Jerald L. Manley
 Gary Roland
 Dorothy Gundersen

Well, within a few days from the time you read this, we will be in utter chaos according to some counselors. Depending upon the particular source, we are to expect

total and complete breakdown of government,
 riots in the streets,
 money failing,
 airplanes falling on our heads,
 cars refusing to start,
 food shortages,
 polluted water, and
 medical shortfalls.

Some foolishly expect the end of the world. I am not a prophet, nor the son of a prophet, but I can absolutely guarantee that the world will not come to an end for at least one thousand and seven years. It may not be any more than that but it will be

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this and that

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no less than that. Guaranteed!

I have a fear that nutcakes and wackoes (religious and otherwise) will create some level of chaos. I have little fear of a world wide computer crash. There are those who, in the name of religions, will do things weird in the turning of the century. It has been done before and it will be again. Some will try to fulfill prophecy and force Christ to return. (And, we sane believers will be adjudged as crazy as they by the media) Some will use the uncertainty for political gain.

My only advice is to stay in fellowship with the One Who Is On The Throne of Glory.

Pastor Manley



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A Special Word To Readers

This has been a good year for **The Baptist Heritage**. The mailing list has increased by some thirty percent (through requests of our readers). The letters suggesting that we might find better things to do with our time have been fewer than anticipated. The favorable e-mails, telephone calls and letters have drastically (and most encouragingly) increased. Overwhelmingly in number, you readers are preachers. Most of you are pastors. We are grateful for that. However, a sizable number who receive this paper are not preachers. Some are fellow believers and others are not yet saved.

This paper has a varied purpose. It is largely a simple attempt by this church to be an encouragement to godly men, "having done all, to stand." Yet, we also desire to devote sporadic issues to a direct appeal to those who have never received the salvation that is in Christ and to invite them to do so. Then, this publication makes no apology for being a Baptist publication and a local church publication. After all, its very name is **The Baptist Heritage**. Far too many sincere believers—members of Baptist churches—have no concept of what a Baptist is. The milquetoast, appeal to everyone, stay away from both doctrine and practice, cater to the world, entertain the rest and offend no one preaching of the last decades has produces a people that use the name but could not define it.

If the rate of expansion can continue through the new year, we will be mailing between one thousand and twelve hundred copies monthly. We hope to be able to send the paper to all who request it and to all whose names are given to us.

Thanks for your prayers, your encouragement and advice. We do pray for you.

Pastor Manley

The Story of Christmas

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and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 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.

*For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not
perish,
but have everlasting life.*

As the western world pauses to 'tolerate', while believers commemorate the remembrance of the incarnation through the virgin birth of the

Lord Jesus Christ,

it is the prayer of this congregation, that you and

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The Story of Christmas

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all of yours will be drawn to a fresh recognition of the preciousness of that wondrous event during these days.

“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.” No other sentence found within the entire lineage of English literature conveys a greater mystery or a deeper truth. The whole sum and substance of Christianity is implied in that declaration. The Word became flesh. The apostle Paul would speak of that even as the time when “God was manifest in the flesh,” and would continue to describe this Incarnate One as “holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners and made higher than the heavens.” The Creator entered his creation in a most intimate way. He became flesh. He who was The First Cause, the Cause of all causes, took upon Himself the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men that He might redeem all humanity to Himself.

He came to the *Crib* that He might go to the *Cross*. Without the *Crib*, the *Cross* would have been meaningless; but because of the *Crib*, the *Cross* becomes most meaningful. ‘Tis the grandest

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The Story of Christmas

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theme known to mortal men, the Lord Jesus Christ was born the Lamb of God. Deity came to become the acceptable sacrifice for sin. Through His blood, you and I, and all who will receive the invitation may have forgiveness from and reconciliation with God. May you and all of yours know this truth in the fullness of salvation during this precious time of remembrance.

On behalf the Congregation, I pray that you will have a wonderful family time through a godly acknowledgment of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.

May the coming year hold that long awaited day, the blessed hope of the believer, when the Lord Jesus leaves Heaven once again. This time to catch away His Own. It certainly could be this next year. It would be a most wonderful year if it were. If it is not, it will be another year of grace.

May we live each of our remaining days anticipating that grand, glorious, great day when our Lord doth return. And may our prayer be as Dr. Oliver B. Greene was wont to pray every time he preached, “May God save right now that soul closest to hell” and as the apostle John, “Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus.”