

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

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December 2017

December brings thoughts of Christmas. And Christmas is the dominant holiday in America, commemorating the incarnation of Christ (Messiah, Anointed One), the one who has influenced the world more than any other in human history.

One Solitary Life

"Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.

He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself.

"While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth – His coat. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

"Nineteen long centuries have come and gone, and today He is a centerpiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life."

This essay was adapted from a sermon by Dr James Allan Francis in "The Real Jesus and Other Sermons" © 1926 by the Judson Press of Philadelphia (pp 123-124 titled "Arise Sir Knight!")

The prophet Isaiah spoke of Him seven centuries prior to His birth.

*NAU **Isaiah 9:6-7** ⁶ For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore.*

This child who was born is the Mighty God of the universe, the agent of creation and sustainer of all things.

*NAU **John 1:3** ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*

*NAU **Colossians 1:17** ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.*

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He gives peace to those who enter into His New Covenant through faith.

*NAU **John 14:27** "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.*

Isaiah also wrote about His atonement for our sins:

*NAU **Isaiah 53:4-6** ⁴ Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. ⁶ All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.*

The Apostle John quoted Him:

*NAU **John 3:16** ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

Merry Christmas and peace to all of you. May the Messiah reign in your hearts.

~ Alan Walter

We are so thankful for our first responders. They continue to serve faithfully right through the holidays. We pray for the safety of them all and ask for God's blessing upon them. May we have a peaceful Christmas in our county!

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