

“Restore in 2024”



**DECEMBER 2024**

FROM THE DESK OF:

GERALD B. COLLINGSWORTH, PASTOR



Pastor & Mrs. C

## Restoring Christmas

Luke 2:1-14

**Introduction:** We have been preaching throughout the year on restoration. We have been emphasizing the many things that need to be restored in our lives. I believe that Christmas is one such area that we need to restore. We need to get back to the true meaning and the real reasons for our practice of Christmas.

What are the things we can do this year to restore Christmas?

### FIRST: WE SHOULD LOOK BACKWARDLY.

LUKE 2:7

Allow yourself to go back in history and back in your mind as you think about the arrival of Jesus Christ. If you were alive then, what would you have done differently than those in the Christmas story?

**Luke 2:7, "And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."**

Many times we have been critical of the innkeeper because he made no room for Jesus, but have you ever considered that we are more guilty of shutting out Jesus in our homes, and in our lives?

In the Gospel of John, we discovered that, "**He came unto his own and his own received him not.**" **John 1:11**

#### I. Look backward to His purpose.

**Luke 2:11, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."** His purpose was to save sinners. **I Timothy 1:15**

#### II. Look backward as to your decision personally.

**Acts 16:30, "...what must I do to be saved?"**

Can you remember that decision of placing your trust in Christ?

### SECOND: WE SHOULD LOOK INWARDLY.

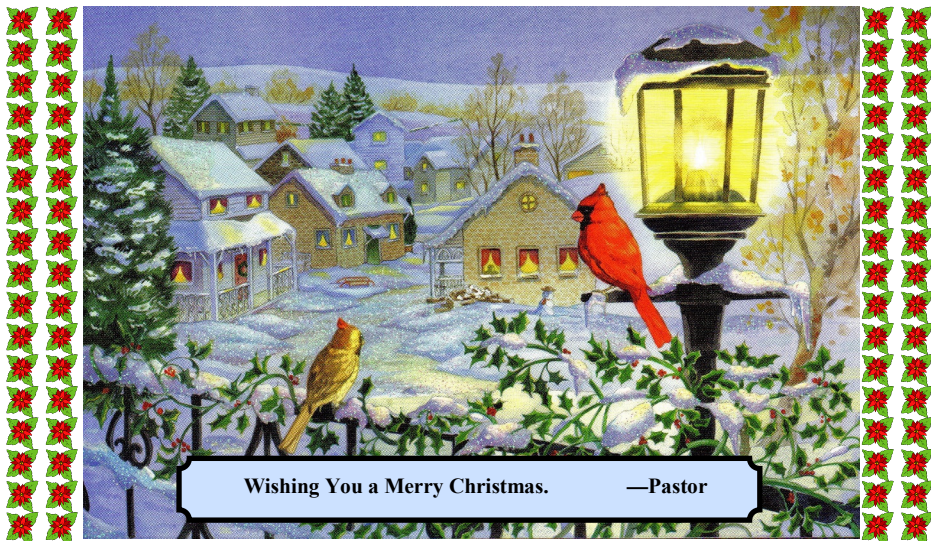
I CORINTHIANS 11:28

**"But let a man examine himself..."**

Do you have a personal relationship with the Christ of Christmas? Only you know the relationship you have with Jesus Christ.

**Illustration:** During World War II, a soldier was wounded in the Marshall Islands in the Pacific. While lying there, he remembered all the stories about the cannibals that used to live on these islands. Then he heard a wonderful sound in the distance. He could hear singing. It was a missionary and his people singing, "I was sinking deep and sin far from the peaceful shore." It just dawned on him that there were no more cannibals on these islands because of the Gospel being preached. Great peace came to him at the thought of his relationship to Christ.

Continued



**Wishing You a Merry Christmas. —Pastor**

*FOUR STUDENTS WALKED INTO THEIR COLLEGE CLASSROOM HALFWAY THROUGH THEIR HISTORY FINAL. "SORRY," ONE SAID. "WE HAD A FLAT TIRE."*

*THE PROFESSOR TOLD THE GROUP THAT IF THEY COULD ALL ANSWER ONE QUESTION CORRECTLY, HE WOULD GIVE THEM EACH AN A ON THE EXAM. THE STUDENTS AGREED, SO THE PROFESSOR HANDED EACH A PIECE OF PAPER, PUT THEM IN FOUR CORNERS AND SAID, "WRITE DOWN WHICH TIRE WAS FLAT."*

*PROFESSOR: A FOOL CAN ASK MORE QUESTIONS THAN A WISE OLD MAN CAN ANSWER.*

*STUDENT: NO WONDER SO MANY OF US FLUNK OUR EXAMS.*

*I SPENT A LOT OF TIME, MONEY AND EFFORT CHILDPROOFING MY HOUSE, BUT THE KIDS STILL GET IN.*



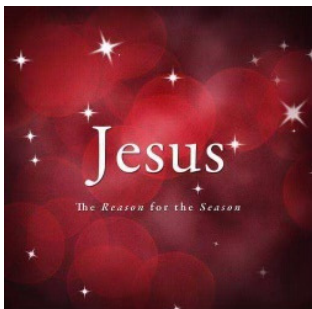
**Kim Kline's Old-Fashioned Soft Pumpkin Cookies**

- |                             |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 tsp baking soda           | 1/2 cup butter (1 stick), softened |
| 1 tsp baking powder         | 1 cup Pure Pumpkin                 |
| 1 tsp ground cinnamon       | 1 large egg                        |
| 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg       | 1 tsp vanilla extract              |
| 1/2 teaspoon salt           |                                    |
| 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar |                                    |

- Glaze**
- 2 cups sifted powdered sugar
  - 3 tbsp milk
  - 1 tbsp. melted butter
  - 1 tsp vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350° F. Grease baking sheets. Combine flour, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt in medium bowl. Beat sugar and butter in large mixer bowl until well blended. Beat in pumpkin, egg and vanilla extract until smooth. Gradually beat in flour mixture. Drop by rounded tablespoon onto prepared baking sheets. Bake for 15 to 18 minutes or until edges are firm. Cool on baking sheets for 2 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool completely.

**For Glaze:** Stir glaze ingredients in small bowl until smooth.



**THIRD: WE SHOULD LOOK UPWARDLY.**

**HEBREWS 12:2**

*"Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith."*

*Colossians 3:1-2, "... seek those things which are above where Christ sitteth...", "Set your affections on things above..."*

To restore Christmas, we must identify the Christ of Christmas. Who is this one that has changed millions upon millions?

*Luke 2:11, "... born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord."*

When the angels announced that Jesus Christ was Lord they were announcing that the Creator and the Owner of all things had just arrived.

*Illustration:* When Thomas, the doubter, recognized the person of Jesus Christ, he called out, *"My Lord and my God."* *John 20:28.*

**Conclusion:** If we are to restore Christmas, we must first identify the child born in Bethlehem's manger. Jesus Christ is Lord.

The songs of Christmas are more than entertainment. They identify the Lord.

Isaac Watts - *Joy to the World! The Lord is Come.*

John Wesley - *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Glory To The Newborn King.*

I love the song that goes, *"He is Lord. He is Lord. He is risen from the dead, and he is Lord.*

Come to Jesus today. Restore Christmas.

**Prayer of Salvation**

If you were to die today, are you 100% sure you would go to Heaven?

If not, would you be willing to pray this prayer with me?

*"Dear Jesus, I'm asking you to come into my heart and forgive me of my sins. I'm trusting you, Jesus, as my Saviour. Thank you for saving me. Amen."* (Romans 10:9 and 10:13)



**Prayer of Service**

*"Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?"* (Acts 9:6)



**Merry Christmas**

*Luke 2:11*

Best wishes for a happy Christmas. May yours be the joy of loved ones about you, of presents that represent loving thoughts. May you have the beautiful Christmas cards from those who are away, and the gifts under the Christmas tree. May the Christmas table be loaded with good things to eat. Yes, we wish you a happy Christmas.

But far more important than these pleasant trappings and customs of Christmas is that you have the Christ of Christmas and His joy. So we wish that the green of the Christmas tree may picture eternal life springing up in your heart. May the lights strung there by loving hands picture Christ, the Light of the world, shining in your heart.

May the joyful message of the angels given at the first Christmas ring in your heart, *"...a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord!"* Shepherds, wise men, the holy family—you may be as happy as any of them, and I pray that you may be, at this glad season.



John R. Rice

The Christmas joy does not depend on the outward trappings of Christmas. You may be lonely, poor, and cold, neglected by the children, forgotten by your friends, yet may have the glad Christmas joy in your heart as Paul had, shut up in prison cells at Rome! Be sure to open your heart and let the dear Lord Jesus make it a happy Christmastime for you.

# Something to "CROW" about!

1. Heritage Baptist Church had someone saved every week for 34 years.
2. Heritage Baptist Church has not closed our Sunday School, Sunday Morning, Sunday Night, or mid-week service in 34 years—including two years of COVID.
3. Heritage Baptist Church will be hosting the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual "Old-Time Religion" Conference on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025.



**SON: DAD, DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU TOLD ME YOU GOT KICKED OUT OF COLLEGE?**

**FATHER: YES, SON.**

**SON: I GUESS IT'S TRUE THAT HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF.**

**TEACHER: WHAT HAPPENED IN 1809?**

**STUDENT: LINCOLN WAS BORN.**

**TEACHER: NOW WHAT HAPPENED IN 1812?**

**STUDENT: HE HAD HIS THIRD BIRTHDAY.**

**BEING AN ANTIQUE DEALER IS A STRANGE WAY TO MAKE A LIVING. IT'S THE ONLY BUSINESS WHERE THE GRANDPARENTS BUY SOMETHING, THE PARENTS SELL IT AND THE GRANDCHILDREN BUY IT AGAIN.**

**A WIFE GOT SO MAD AT HER HUSBAND THAT SHE PACKED HIS BAGS AND TOLD HIM TO GET OUT. AS HE WALKED TO THE DOOR, SHE YELLED, "I HOPE YOU DIE A LONG, SLOW, PAINFUL DEATH!" HE TURNED. "SO YOU WANT ME TO STAY?"**

## You Say You're A Christian

You say you're a Christian, but don't 'feel it's necessary' to attend church?

Can a person be saved and not attend church?

Yes, but to be a 'Christian' means to be 'Christ-like', and Christ DIED for the CHURCH!

A Christian out of church is like...

- a student who will not attend classes;
- a soldier who doesn't obey orders;
- a citizen who doesn't pay his taxes;
- a salesman who has no customers;
- an author without readers;
- a parent without a family'
- a bee without a hive.

Rules don't cause rebellion...they expose it!



## From our Pastor's Wife... Mrs. Vida Collingsworth An Old-Fashioned Christmas

I'm so glad to be called old-fashioned. I believe in a one and only old-fashioned Saviour (Jesus Christ). I believe in the old-fashioned Bible, the old King James Bible. I believe in an old-fashioned independent, fundamental Bible-believing Baptist Church. I believe in old-fashioned dress standards and behavior; where ladies still dress like ladies and men still dress like men. Where ladies are still gracious, honorable and submissive in their spirit and where men are leaders in the home and in society. I believe in an old-fashioned family with one mom and one dad. I believe in an old-fashioned Christmas where Jesus is still the reason for the season, where Christ is not crossed out of the word Christmas. Where the Word of God is opened first on Christmas morning as Dad reads the story of Jesus' birth and then the family prays and gives thanks to Jesus, for He is still the one that makes it possible for us to enjoy all the presents and food we share as we celebrate His birthday! I am so glad to be called old-fashioned. I am so glad for an old-fashioned Christmas!!!

Some food for thought ...or...

# Seed From The Silo!

## COLORADO TO FLORIDA: 'DON'T SAY WE DIDN'T WARN YOU'

A Colorado-based radio host warns Floridians, to think twice before legalizing recreational marijuana, where voters will see the issue on their November ballot.

"It completely devastated the state of Colorado," says Jeff Hunt, a radio host in Denver. "First off, you're not just legalizing a drug, you're commercializing a drug - and anybody who knows the free market knows that when you unleash the power of the free market on an addictive substance like marijuana, you are now encouraging [that] power... to get as many people using that drug as they possibly can."

According to Hunt, the Rocky Mountain State has seen a dramatic increase in the amount of car accidents related to marijuana consumption; and more young people are using the drug, which Hunt says is harming their brains.

"In fact, marijuana is the number-one drug linked to youth suicide in the state of Colorado," says Hunt.

## 5,577 BIOLOGISTS SURVEYED. 97% SAID HUMAN LIFE BEGINS AT CONCEPTION

A new survey asked over 5,500 biologists when human life begins, and 96% of them agree that human life begins at the point of conception or fertilization.

The researcher...took survey questions to 5,577 biologists from over a thousand academic institutions in 86 countries. According to the study, the sample of biologists was predominantly non-religious (63 percent), with more liberals (89 percent) than conservatives(11 percent), Democrats (92 percent) than Republicans (8 percent), and pro-choice supporters (85 percent) than pro-life supporters (15 percent).

Participants were asked to respond "Correct" or "Incorrect" to statements describing the biological view that "a human's life begins at fertilization."  
--Steven Ertelt, Life News

What Kind Of Seed Are **You** Sowing?

*AN EXECUTIVE CAME HOME LOOKING DISCOURAGED. HIS WIFE ASKED WHAT WAS WRONG. "YOU KNOW THOSE APTITUDE TESTS THEY'RE GIVING AT THE COMPANY?" HE SAID. "I TOOK ONE TODAY. IT'S A GOOD THING I OWN THE PLACE."*



**1st Place**  
Jarrod  
Collingsworth

## Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye! 2024 Turkey Shoot Champions

### Top guns:

Pastor Collingsworth — 5 1st Place and 5 2nd Place  
Ken Watson — 3 First Place and 4 Second Place  
Jeff Berezne — 3 First Place and 1 Second Place



**2nd Place**  
Jeff Oswald

*THE ART OF POLITICS  
IS MAKING PEOPLE  
LIKE YOU NO MATTER  
WHAT IT COSTS THEM.  
—RONALD REAGAN*

## Winners of Best Chili Competition 2024



**1st Place**  
Sheila Spencer  
Salsa Verde  
Chicken Chili

**2nd Place**  
Bryson  
Collingsworth  
Little Gobbler  
Chili



## Five Keys To A Christian Home

1. Give God the first hour of each day (Mark 1:35). Pray in the morning.
2. Give God the first day of the week (I Cor. 16:2). Serve in your church to save your community.
3. Give God the first portion of your income (Prov. 3:9). Keep books on what you give to be sure you do not think you are giving more than you actually are.
4. Give God the first consideration in every decision (Matt. 6:33). This includes your choice of house, close friends, work, church, school, etc.
5. Give God's Son first place in your heart always (II Cor. 8:5). Live in His presence as though He were the Unseen Guest in your house—He is, you know!



Dr. Jack Hyles

**Mama's Bible**  
*I Peter 1:23*

When I was a boy, from the time I remember—I remember back when I was two and three years of age—until I went into the paratroopers in World War II when I was 18, my mother would read to me for 30 minutes every night from the Bible. Then she would hold it up and say, “This is the Word of God!” She did not say, “The manuscripts from which we got this are the Word of God.” My mom didn’t even know what a manuscript was. She just knew she had a Book that was the Word of God. That’s all she knew. So, she said, “This is the Word of God.” I would look at it, and I would have to say three times, “Mama, the Bible is the Word of God. The Bible is the Word of God. The Bible is the Word of God.”

I have Mama’s Bible—the same one she read—in my office. I’ve had it there for years. It is the same Bible she used to hold up. I was thumbing through it the other day. On the inside, it says on the title page, “King James Bible.” That’s what it says. You know it worked. It’s amazing how well Mama did before she found out that it wasn’t the Word of God.

I’ve been going to Baptist churches for 51 years. Every pastor I’ve ever had preached from the King James Bible. He always said to the crowd, “Open your Bibles and let’s hear what the Lord says.” These pastors were not unfortunate enough to have sat at the feet of those with lower education—which calls itself “higher education.”

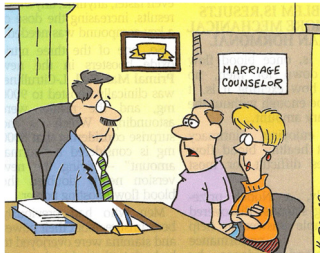
It is amazing how well this nation did when we didn’t know how ignorant we were. (Are you listening?) This is my fifth pastorate. I’ve seen miracles in my pastorates. I’ve preached over 41,000 times, and I’ve never yet preached a sermon that wasn’t preached from the King James Bible.



**Heritage Teen Activity**

**TEACHER: WHO WAS JOAN OF ARK?**  
**STUDENT: WASN'T SHE NOAH'S WIFE?**

**THE PROBLEM WITH BEING PUNCTUAL IS THAT NOBODY'S THERE TO APPRECIATE IT.**



**"Lately, she's been referring to me as her 'insignificant other.'"**

**PROFESSOR CAN YOU TELL ME ANYTHING ABOUT THE GREAT PHILOSOPHERS OF THE NINTH CENTURY?**

**STUDENT: THEY ARE ALL DEAD.**



**"You're not just a number here. You're a number followed by some letters and some more numbers."**

**CONSIDERING THAT MOST PEOPLE ARE BURIED IN SUITS AND DRESSES, ANY ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE IS LIKELY TO BE A RATHER FORMAL AFFAIR.**

**Lest We Forget**



US Army Staff Sergeant Paul Luther Bolden

He voluntarily attacked a formidable enemy strongpoint in Petit-Coo, Belgium, on 23 December 1944, when his company was pinned down by extremely heavy automatic and small-arms fire coming from a house 200 yards to the front. Mortar and tank artillery shells pounded the unit, when SSgt. Bolden and a comrade, on their own initiative, moved forward in a hail of bullets to eliminate the ever-increasing fire from the German position. Crawling ahead to close with what they knew was a powerfully armed, vastly superior force, the pair reached the house and took up assault positions, SSgt. Bolden under a window, his comrade across the street where he could deliver covering fire. In rapid succession, SSgt. Bolden hurled a fragmentation grenade and a white phosphorous grenade into the building; and then, fully realizing that he faced tremendous odds, rushed to the door, threw it open, and fired into 35 SS troopers who were trying to reorganize themselves after the havoc wrought by the grenades. Twenty Germans died under fire of his submachine gun before he was struck in the shoulder,

chest, and stomach by part of a burst which killed his comrade across the street. He withdrew from the house, waiting for the surviving Germans to come out and surrender. When none appeared in the doorway, he summoned his ebbing strength, overcame the extreme pain he suffered, and boldly walked back into the house, firing as he went. He had killed the remaining 15 enemy soldiers when his ammunition ran out. SSgt. Bolden's heroic advance against great odds, his fearless assault, and his magnificent display of courage in reentering the building where he had been severely wounded cleared the path for his company and insured the success of its mission.

# Our Statement of Faith

We accept the Holy Scriptures contained in the Old and New Testaments as being the verbally inspired Word of God and being perfectly preserved in the King James 1611 Bible. We do not believe it can be corrected or improved upon in any way. It is the final rule of faith and practice. **Psalm 12:6-7, 1 Peter 1:23**

We believe in the triune God, who is eternally in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Matt. 28:19-20**  
We believe in the deity of Christ— His virgin birth, His sinless life, His death for the sins of the world, His bodily resurrection, His exaltation at God's right hand, His personal, imminent, and premillennial return.

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 1 Timothy 3:16, Acts 1:11**

We believe that all men are sinners and are guilty before God; in need of a Saviour. **Romans 3:23**

We believe that men are born again through faith in Jesus Christ; that they become the children of God, eternally saved; that the Holy Spirit dwells within every believer to guide and help him in his testimony and service.

**Acts 16:30-31, Galatians 2:16, Ephesians 1:13, John 10:28**

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved in Glory, and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost in hell. We believe that all believers have a responsibility to get the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ into all the world. **John 5:28-29, Luke 16:22-23, Rev. 20:11-15**

We believe that Baptist churches were the first churches of Christianity and that Jesus founded a Baptist church. **John 1:35-37, Acts 1:22**

## Baptist Beliefs

**B**iblical Authority

**A**utonomy of the Local Church

**P**riesthood of ALL Believers

**T**wo ordinances - Baptism & Communion

**I**mmersed Church Membership

**S**oul-liberty

**T**wo officers - Pastors and Deacons

**S**eparation of Church and State

## Baptist Heritage

- **John the Baptist**, Exalter of Christ
- **Meno Simons** (1496-1561), Dutch Anabaptist leader
- **Roger Williams** (1603-1683), Founded the first Baptist church in America in Providence, Rhode Island in 1638.
- **John Clarke** (1609-1676) was a Baptist preacher, medical doctor, and co-founder of the colony of Rhode Island. He was a driving force to get religious freedom into the charter of Rhode Island.
- **John Bunyan** (1628-1688), Baptist preacher who wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*
- **Charles Spurgeon** (1834-1892), might be the greatest Baptist pastor in England
- **John Franklyn Norris** (1877-1952), founder of World Baptist Fellowship
- **Jack Frasure Hyles** (1926-2001), 10,000 baptisms per year and might be the greatest Baptist pastor

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