

THE MESSENGER

Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road
New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 10:15 am

DECEMBER 2020

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

THE JESUS OF ISAIAH 9

When you were young, were you ever called by any nicknames? My parents had various names for me. I was called Bob, Bobby, Robert, and Little Bobby, because my father’s name was also Robert.

And people give us nicknames for a variety of reasons. I played wide receiver in high school, and at the time the Dallas Cowboys had a wide receiver named Lance Rentzel. And since my last name is “Gentzel”, I was known for a time as “Lance Gentzel”. But because I was 6’4” and weighed 135 lbs, that name morphed into “Lance Pencil”.

The Baby who was born in an animal trough almost 2,000 years ago, whose birth we celebrate this season (and year-round) is given many different names in the Bible. And why was that? It was because each name He was given tells us something about His character, His nature, and His purpose for coming to earth. Jesus’ names in the Scriptures are not accidental, they are instructive, they each reveal some truth about Him.

Jesus is called in the Bible, among other names, Son of God, Son of Man, the First-born, God, Lord, Savior, Lord of Glory, the Alpha and Omega, the Creator of All, the way, the truth and the life, the Word, the Light of the World, the Redeemer, and the Deliverer. He’s of course also called Jesus, which means the one Who saves.

I would like us to focus, though, on just four of His names, and they are names found in two verses in Isaiah 9- verses 6 and 7: “For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”. In those four titles there is a world of information about this Child whose birth we celebrate.

First, the Babe in the manger is a “Wonderful Counselor”, the verse says. Literally, it says He is a “wonder of a counselor” - One Whose counsel is so wise that it arouses awe and wonder in those who listen to it and heed it. Jesus didn’t come just to show us some way, He came to give wonderful counsel. He came to tell us what we need to know to live life as God intends it to be lived. That means that every word that issues forth from His mouth, as recorded of course in the Scriptures, is for our benefit, and is ignored at our peril.

Second, the Babe Whose birthday we celebrate is “Mighty God”, the verse tells us. That claim is hard to miss or misunderstand. The Babe in the manger was not just a good moral example or a great teacher, He was Mighty God. So many people are willing to say Jesus was a good guy, but that’s not the claim here. The claim is that He was God, and not just any false God, but the God Who possesses all might. Neil Armstrong was the first person to walk on the moon: if we say he was only a maker of good paper airplanes, we don’t give him his rightful due. In the same way, if we call Jesus a good moral example

when the Scriptures say He is Mighty God, but fail to see He is Mighty God, we don't give Him the glory that is His. The Babe is Mighty God.

Third, He is also, Isaiah 9 tells us, the "Everlasting Father". There are two ideas in that claim. *First*, Jesus is God the Father. "Well," you say, "I thought God is our Father!" You have that right, but this verse plainly says that Jesus is also our Father. The only one way that works is if the Son and the Father are one Being. Guess what Jesus says in Jn. 10:30: "I and the Father are one." The *second* idea is that the Babe Who was in the manger is "Everlasting".

And a **fourth** name- Bethlehem's Babe is the "Prince of Peace". What is a prince? One of the resources He makes available to us, the verse says, is His peace. Now peace in the Bible generally refers to peace between God and us- the peace we throw away when we sin. So true peace, the peace which must come before any other peace is possible, is available only from the Prince of Peace. And so, Jesus in Romans 5:1 says, "Therefore, when we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through Jesus Christ". Peace is available because the Babe who was born, was born to grow up and die in our place to be able to offer us the gift of peace.

Well, the celebrations of Christmas are almost upon us, let's not fail to give Him glory and honor by limiting Him to a "good example" or a "gifted teacher", as important as those things are. We worship Him and celebrate Him because He was and is a Wonder of a Counselor, the God Who possesses all might, the Everlastingly existing Father, and the Prince Who makes peace possible.

God bless you this Christmas Season, Rev. Bob Gentzel

PRAYER NEEDS

Bud Hummler Family, Phil Whipple Family, Burdette Family, Dick Hickernell, Decline in COVID, Shut-ins, Tim & Karmen Brown (FCA), Greg Jewett (FCA), schoolteachers & students; doctors and nurses; Truth, Justice, and Unity in America
Missionary of the Month: Pastor Michael Muwongee - Uganda
Shut-Ins: Helen Smith, Melvin Burdette, Jeanne Teele, Lorei Lees, and Trish Dolejs

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

An angel of the LORD appeared to them, and the glory of the LORD shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the LORD. (Luke 2:9-11)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING TO YOU LIVE WEEKLY 10:15 A.M: We are live streaming the worship service every week as it happens. Go to the church Facebook page and watch!

Events: We are considering a virtual Bible Study through Zoom in January. Interested? Please let Pastor Mike know.

Stewardship Update: (As Of November 22, 2020)

Year to Date Budgeted: \$111,090

Year to Date Received: \$93,956

Year to Date Deficit: (\$17,134)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Will Take Place: 7:00 P.M.! Protocols in Place

Poinsettias May Be Purchased ASAP! We have 10 poinsettias for sale in memory of/dedicated to someone. They are only \$10 each but first come, first served. Call Clarabell at 614-668-7168

Stay Connected: Don't forget to check out our website each day! www.franklinub.org

Your Help Is Needed: We need volunteers to staff the nursery/toddler room. At this time we are likely going to need to combine the care. We need to be ready each week as needed.

Building Fund Is Still In Great Need: We believe that due to low attendance the Building Fund has taken a great "hit" financially. IF you made a commitment last February be sure to know that if you're not here the payment still goes on. We have been short a couple months, fortunately another fund has helped but we MUST return funding through the designated Building Fund. If you can give extra NOW would be the time to do it.

Missed Watching the Service Live on Our Facebook Page? No problem. By Sunday afternoon it uploads on Franklin Church Facebook page by Wednesday it is on our website. Click and watch the entire worship service.

Help! We want your Facebook feedback, please write something in the comment section.