

The Springfield Redeemer



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What Is Important This Christmas? By Roberta D'Amico



That could be a question, or an affirmation of belief! People are busy putting up Christmas lights and trees, and shopping for gifts; all the preparations for Christmas which can be fun or burdensome! And terribly expensive! Now, I know that some believe celebrating Christmas is not Biblical, but I believe Jesus' birthday can be celebrated, in a way that glorifies Him. It is easy to go overboard on expensive decorations, parties, and gifts, but there are things that are more important than all the stuff we sometimes fill our lives with!

So, how can we celebrate Christmas in a way that pleases God? Well, some have made a good start by filling Shoe Boxes for Franklin Graham's Operation Christmas Child. Thousands of these boxes of toys, school supplies, and toiletries also carry the gospel to children all over the world each Christmas, blessing both givers and recipients! There are so many ways we can bless others, serve Christ, and share our abundance.

But it's really not about doing things, it's about where our hearts are! I must ask myself, "What is most important in my life?" To get a meaningful answer to this question, think about the Big Picture, that is, seeing life from God's perspective! God has created each one of us to live forever. (Ever notice that human beings seem to have an innate desire for immortality?) Each one of us is His creation, and when we pass from this life, we enter into an eternity, either with God or apart from Him, heaven or hell! This is why Jesus left Heaven and was born in Bethlehem as a baby! He came to be our Savior from the consequence of our sin. That is the whole reason for having Christmas!

This truth makes our response to Jesus clearly more important than even our jobs and careers, our vacations and entertainments, even our family and friends. If Jesus is first in my life, then our Christmas will reflect that belief. First, we will give thanks in all circumstances. Remember, God's desire is not to make us happy and comfortable, as many people try to do today. His desire is to draw us into an intimate relationship with Himself that will be for all eternity in an unbelievably wonderful world to come. Then, focus your Christmas activities on the Savior, Jesus. Display a Nativity; attend a Christmas Concert; give God the thanks for all that we have and enjoy. Seek to bless others less fortunate. By doing so others will know we are Christians and we store up riches in Heaven!

Living for the Lord Jesus is a growing process, a great adventure, one that gets better and better! And when once we enter into it through faith and surrender to Him, that new life becomes evident. How is it shown? By anything that we do, even just prayer, which demonstrates Who is most important in our life! This world, this life, is not an end in itself. It is just a preparation for a new world, God's Kingdom. But here is where we choose to believe in Jesus and learn to live as "King's kids" for the glory of God. Here in this corrupt world we learn to know God and have faith in Him. The devil is continually lying to us and trying to trick us into doubting God. He is constantly distracting us with the things of this world. This Christmas season, I urge you to make Christ the main event, the center-piece of your celebration.

Trust Jesus Unity Service Nov 6, 2022

This Service, a gathering of Believers of many area churches, was held at a new church, called Church of Revival Refuge Manasseh, which is about a year old. They volunteered their facility on Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, for the evening of November 6, and provided sandwiches, cupcakes, drinks.

First, we prayed over the leaders of this church, exhorted and encouraged them, assuring them they are not alone, followed by worship and song.

One of the visitors to this service was a man formerly from Africa. Mr. Fikiri Amisi, who came 4 years ago from the Democratic Republic of Congo, is a pastor at Calvary's Love Church, under Pastor Juan Feliciano. The Congo was involved in civil war, and Amisi went to Zimbabwe, where he learned English. After coming to America as a refugee, he found Calvary's Love Church, where he felt God saying, "This is the place for you!" Being hungry for God, he is now a pastor at Calvary's Love Church, in addition to attending Westfield State University. Also, he sponsors 4 Bible Institutes in 4 other African countries!



Fikiri Amisi and Daniel Torres

The primary message of the Unity Service was the Authority of God! John 5:19 – Even Jesus deferred to His Father while He was on earth in a human body! He is our example; He only does what His Father does. Conflicts always come about from disobedience to authority, especially God's authority. All authority comes from God – our leaders here in this world are appointed by God. No one becomes President or Mayor, or Chief of Police unless God permits it. But God's way is GOOD! His way produces life, peace, joy. If we hear and believe, we avoid many difficulties, although even life in Christ still has its challenges. But, the world rises up against God's authority, because people desire their own way, even if it's wrong! But God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit will prevail! He has control and everything that happens is subject to His perfect will.

To stay in God's will, we must be subject to Him. He must be the most important thing in our life. Then we must know what He says and choose to obey it. God allows us to choose, but He determines every

consequence of our choices. God's plan for this world and each life in it will come to pass. He has a purpose for everything, and promises a wonderful future in His perfect Kingdom for those who believe and trust Him. It's in the Bible, how wonderful our future will be; with Jesus. It's better than life in this world!

October-November NEWS from Pastor Renzo, Evangelist & Revivalist from RGMS

Pastor Renzo Ventrice has contacted 84 pastors since August 2020, telling them about the need for churches to come together in prayer for revival, and sharing the ministry of Holy Grounds Coffee House. On October 31st, after he attended the inspiring LEADING THE WAY Pastors Lunch Conference at Max's Tavern at the Basketball Hall of Fame, he had the opportunity to speak about RGMS with several local area pastors

November 7 to 11, he facilitated the Bible Study at Holy Grounds, studying 2 Samuel, and how and we can apply these truths in our everyday lives. Much healthy discussion and fellowship was evident in these Spirit led studies on how to conquer our enemies by God's strength.

Ongoing Events

SUNDAY SERVICES: Afternoon fellowship and 5 p.m. Service - Motivated by Faith with Bobby and Kim Q.

MONDAY -- FRIDAY: Morning Bible Study at 7:30 a.m. **Come and be blessed!**

WEDNESDAY: 1 pm to 4 pm – Coffee House open with Steve Morin.

THURSDAY: FIAT meeting - December TBA, 7:30 pm.

FRIDAY: Women's Bible Study with Shelly Saunders, Fridays at 1:00 PM.

Note: Holy Grounds Coffee House held a Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 24th. All were welcome to come and partake, and we thank all the volunteers who helped and donated food.