

## **How You Can Receive the Greatest Christmas Gift of All**

When Jesus came to earth as a baby in Bethlehem, it was for a profound, eternal purpose. He was giving Himself to us so that we could forever enjoy relationship with Him.

God is offering Himself to us as a free gift. The Bible says that “the gift of God is eternal life” (Romans 6:23). Just as a gift at Christmastime is not purchased but received freely, so God desires to give Himself to us freely. Any attempt we make to work our way into that relationship will only offend a God who desires to give us Himself as a gift.

The Bible is very clear in its analysis of mankind. Every single one of us is a sinner (Romans 3:23) and has repeatedly broken God’s perfect laws. The fact that we fall so far short of God’s standard is revealed in Matthew 5:48 where Jesus calls us to “be perfect even as our Father in heaven is perfect.” Most certainly, none of us qualifies.

Our assessment of God is true when we think that God is love (1 John 4:8). Yet, the same Bible that says that God is love makes it clear that God loves justice. He cannot simply clear the guilty (Exodus 34:7).

This poses a huge problem. God offers Himself to us freely but then says we are guilty and cannot come in. This apparent problem was solved in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus came to earth for the purpose of dying on the cross and rising from the dead to pay the penalty for our sin (Isaiah 53:4-6) so that we can enter into relationship with the Father and spend eternity with Him in Heaven.

So, how do we receive this gift that Jesus offers? Stop trusting in yourself and transfer your trust to Jesus and what He did on the cross to pay your sin debt (Acts 16:30-31). In a simple prayer, ask Him to forgive you of your sins and come into your heart to dwell. Surrender to Him that from now on to love Him, obey Him, and serve Him as the Lord of your life.

After you do this, tell someone of your decision and get plugged into a good, Bible-believing church where you can grow in your Christian walk.

*A Celebration of Christmas*

*Through*

*Scripture and Music*

*at*

*First Baptist Church*

*of Polk City*

*December 24, 2023*

Opening Prayer . . . . . Pastor Matt

### **The Prophecy Foretold**

Isaiah 9:6,7 . . . . . Al & Jane Crowell

*“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”* . . . . . Hymn # 175

Micah 5:2-4 . . . . . Hufschmidt Family

*“Come, Thou Long – Expected Jesus”* . . . . . Hymn # 176

### **The Obedience to the Father**

Luke 1:26-38 . . . . . Collins Family

Gabriel Appears to Mary

*“Angels We Have Heard on High”* . . . . . Hymn # 184

Matthew 1:18-25 . . . . . Brandon & Rachel Miller

An Angel Appears to Joseph

*“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”* . . . . . Hymn # 179

### **The Good Tidings of Great Joy**

Luke 2:8-20 . . . . . Herb Wells

Angels Appear to the Shepherds

*“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”* . . . . . Hymn # 192

Matthew 2:1-12 . . . . . Williams Family  
The Wise Men Come from the East

*“We Three Kings of Orient Are”* . . . . . Hymn # 215

### **The Celebration of the Birth**

The Good News! . . . . . Pastor Matt

### **Step Outside to Sing Under the Stars**

*“Silent Night”* . . . . . Hymn # 206

Closing Prayer . . . . . Pastor Matt

