

Pastor's Letter December 2017

Greetings to all,

So what is on your mind at this time of the year? For many of us our minds are filled with lists.

We make a list of names we are buying gifts for and another list for those we are sending Christmas cards. Another list for what food we need to purchase for our in-home gatherings and



what we need to take to potluck parties. Another list of what cleaning needs to be done before the holidays and what we need to decorate. That's not all friends, we then turn and look at our calendars that are filled with dates and times of events that we are expected to attend. After making the list and scanning the calendar we try to juggle our time so that we can shop for the items on the lists, cook, clean, decorate, and attend the work, school, family, friend and church events we are expected to attend. My concern is the possibility that we are not allowing enough time in our very busy and hectic schedule for God. Are we putting all of our energy and time into our earthly pleasures instead of our spiritual growth and needs?

As we drive from place to place we may listen to Christian Christmas music, go to Sunday morning Advent services and maybe even stay for a Sunday School class if we can fit it into our schedules. All of these things are wonderful but when we are in worship our minds are on what we have to do after worship or is it on the prayers, hymns and sermon? Are we hoping that the minister isn't too long-winded because we have things to do, places to go and people to see after worship?

It is so easy for us to lose Jesus in the hustle and bustle of the season. We tend to forget that the birth of this baby fulfilled God's promise in Isaiah 9:6, ***For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulders. And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*** There are times that we forget during the celebration of the birth, the reason for the birth was a means to provide us with salvation. Through the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus we are offered life everlasting, a gift that we do not deserve, a gift that is freely given out of love, a gift that provides us with hope and a promise of a better life to come with Jesus.

I am no different from any of you who may be reading this pastors page. I get tied up in the church and personal business of the season and sometimes put the "reason for the season" on the back burner. As we move farther into the holiday season I invite you, and remind myself, to make it a priority to remember the gift of salvation we received because "a child was born."

Merry CHRISTmas my brothers and sisters,
Pastor Lynn