

克利夫蘭華人教會

Cleveland Chinese Christian Church

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Youth Pastor Letter

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Dear Church Family,

Things aren't the way they are suppose to be. Our world is filled with sadness and the effects of sin. Murder, war, natural disasters, and more happen all the time. This isn't right.

Many look at the world and think that a loving God can't exist with all of the suffering we experience. But if look at scripture we will see that God not only exists, but that He deeply loves us and desires to for us to know Him.

God's plan from the beginning of time was to send One person as sacrifice to atone for our sins. The birth account of Matthew 1:18-25 shares much about the identity of Jesus Christ and the hope that He brings for sinners longing for God. We learn two very important things about Jesus in this passage:

First, we see that It is part of Jesus' very identity to save God's people from their sins. The angel says in Matthew 1:21 "...you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." The angel ties the name of Jesus with his mission. The angel basically said, "You shall call His name 'Yahweh Saves' because Yahweh (God the Father) will save through Him!"

And that is exactly what Jesus was accomplishing as He hung on the cross. It was their that He paid the price of sin to redeem all who would believe in Him—to reconcile us to God and make us part of His family, adopted as Sons and daughters of the King.

Secondly, We also learn from Matthew quoting Isaiah 7:14 that it was prophesied 700 years before Jesus' birth that He would be Immanuel, or "God with us." The death and resurrection of Jesus ushers in an opportunity to enjoy true rest and joy in the presence of God.

If you haven't trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ before for the forgiveness of sins, I urge you to think about all of the bad things you have done against others and against the One True Holy God and also think about the work of Jesus on the cross. Forgiveness of sins is for those who trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ to bring them to God. Pray to God and tell Him you're sorry for how you have lived and for your sin—and ask for true faith to hate your sin and live a repentant life loving and serving God.

God has sent a Savior to redeem the world from sin and death! We are to take joy for what God has done and what He has won for us like someone rejoices when they have found great treasure, because if we are in Jesus Christ, we have found the greatest treasure.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or prayer requests, please contact me at jmlilley@clevelandccc.org.

In Christ,
Pastor Jonathan Lilley