

KAIROS

NEWSLETTER

December 2020 | #356



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The Main Character of Christmas

Christmas 2020 is here! Were you surprised that COVID19 has been with us for almost a year now and showing no sign of leaving soon? While we are wondering when life will return to 'normal', many areas are beginning to experience a "second wave" with COVID. Authorities have again issued curfews, lockdowns and stay at home orders. The festive Christmas holiday atmosphere of the past has been "watered down" this year. Christmas usually is a very busy season. Sending greeting cards, shopping for gifts, attending parties, dining with family and friends, vacation traveling, tree decorating.....it is a time to enjoy the many pleasures of life in the name of Christmas.

➤ The Forgotten Character

Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birthday. He should be the main character and 'star'. But the world's focus is not on the birthday celebration of the true "star" of Christmas! Things we normally do to celebrate birthdays are not done for Jesus at Christmas! When we exchange gifts, are we aware that there is no gift for Jesus? How much do we understand the spiritual meaning behind the familiar Christmas decorations and symbols we often see at Christmas?

Christmas Presents: the tradition of giving presents came from the wise men from the East presenting gifts to Jesus, as God had given us the most precious gift of all.

Christmas Lights: we decorate with Christmas lights because Jesus is the light of the world; Christmas lights shine when it gets dark outside; it is not just for decoration, but symbolizes that Jesus is the light of the world, directing our path, leading us out of darkness into the light.

Christmas Trees: Christmas trees are evergreen cypress or pine trees, representing the everlasting life that Jesus gives. Cypress symbolizes Jesus' kingship; the sharp pine needles and red berries represent Jesus' death on the cross.

Star on top of the Christmas Tree: though the Christmas tree is decorated with lots of ornaments, it is always topped with a large star which symbolized the star that guided the wise men from the east. The star also represents Jesus. We place gifts under the Christmas tree as presenting them to Jesus.

Christmas Wreath: many people like to hang a Christmas wreath on their front door. The evergreen leaves symbolize 'life'. The circular shape symbolizes 'eternity'. As a whole, the wreath symbolizes Jesus sacrificing his life to give us eternal life

➤ An Equal Exchange

During Christmas, we give gifts and receive gifts from each other. "Gift exchange" is a favorite activity at gatherings. Participants would prepare a gift to exchange for another gift of equal value. God loves us and gave us Jesus as His most precious gift. The appropriate gift return would be to offer our lives back to live for Christ although this certainly is not an exchange of equal value.

➤ Let the Lord be First

Colossians 1:18 says, "And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. "Being "preeminent" here means that taking first place in every aspect of our life. Not our career, job, money, spouse, children, interests, or hobbies but only Jesus who is our Savior and Lord is "first" in our life. The acronym F.I.R.S.T. helps us to remember that Christ should be preeminent in the five major facets of our daily lives:

F is Finance - **He is preeminent in our finance;**

I is Interests - **He is preeminent in our interests;**

R is Relationship - **He is preeminent in all our relationship;**

S is Schedule - **He is preeminent in our daily schedules, occupying each day's prime time**

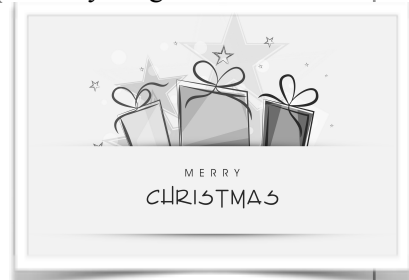
T is Troubles - **He is preeminent in every trouble that we face. Our first step is to go to Him.**

This year we have an opportunity to put away the "busyness" of the past and focus on the real "star" of Christmas! On that "peaceful" evening, an angel appeared to the shepherds who were keeping watch over their flocks in a field in Bethlehem, and proclaimed, "I bring you **good news** that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:10-12)

The main character of the "**good news**" is baby Jesus lying in the manger. Are you ready to present your gift to Him this Christmas?

May we wish you and your family a very blessed & safe Christmas and New Year!

In Christ,
Rev. David Su



➤ Prayers and Thanksgiving

1. We are thankful for the many friends who have us at the virtual event celebrating Kairos' 35th Anniversary. May God continue to bless and lead us in our "journey of abundant grace".
2. We thank God for the upgrade of studio equipment so program quality can be improved. Pray that the Kairos staff will continue to serve with diligence and excellence.
3. We have published 2 English versions of our programs and will continue to do more so we can reach out to more viewers. May God bless the volunteers who helped to make this happen.

➤ "God's Deliverance" – from the Minnesota Grasshopper Plagues

We have published an English version of this most watched program (over 70k views) on the Kairos YouTube Channel. You can get direct access to view with the following link or scan the QR code: <https://youtu.be/RT25RJ-6h1E>



➤ "A Journey with Abundant Grace"

We have published an English version of this amazing flashback of the Kairos 35 years journey. You may watch it on the Kairos YouTube Channel. Please visit with the following link or scan the QR code: <https://youtu.be/b1KYSlGxfg8>

