

# The Ultimate Meaning of Christmas

Mark 15:16-16:8 | December 23, 2012 | John Crawford

In order to understand the significance of the <u>birth</u> of Christ, we must first understand the significance of the <u>death</u> of Christ.

#### The Shame of the Crucifixion...

- The mocking from the soldiers.
- The <u>humiliation</u> of the cross.
- The <u>ridicule</u> from those who pass by.
- The <u>mocking</u> from the chief priests and scribes.
- The insults from the robbers.

## The Significance of the Crucifixion...

- On the cross Jesus bore the full weight of God's just wrath and condemnation against our sin.
  - On the cross God was <u>punishing</u> his own Son as if he had committed every wrong deed done by every <u>deed</u> who would ever believe.
  - Jesus was forsaken by God so that we would never have to be.
- Through Jesus' death on the cross we now have direct, unhindered, immediate access to God.
- Through Jesus' death on the cross access to God has been made available to everyone.

### The Triumph of the Resurrection...

- Jesus' resurrection confirms that he is the divine <u>Son</u> of God.
- Jesus' resurrection confirms that his sacrifice on the cross was fully <u>accepted</u> by God.
- Jesus' resurrection confirms that those who trust in him will live in the <u>presence</u> of God forever.

## **Welcome to Cross Fellowship Church!**

We are grateful that you have come to worship with us today. If you are a first time visitor we are so glad you are here and pray that you feel welcome. If you have any specific questions about our church, the service, sermon or anything else, we would love to talk to you! Feel free to stop by the Welcome Table in the lobby or talk to one of the elders. If you have time we'd also encourage you to complete a Visitor Information Card which is located at the Welcome Table.

### **Christmas Eve Gathering**

Join us on Christmas Eve as we gather together to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We will meet at the Crawford's (9901 Woodson) at 5pm for a time of singing, reading Scripture and fellowship. Bring a favorite snack to share and game to play. Feel free to invite family and friends to join us.

### How to Study the Bible Equipping Seminar

On Friday night, January 25th, from 6:30-9:30pm, we will be hosting a seminar on how to study the Bible. It will take place at Tomahawk Ridge Community Center in the Summit Room. The goal of the seminar will be to equip you with practical skills and tools which will help you to better effectively read the Bible. We can't imagine a more exciting way to spend a Friday night! Feel free to invite others to join us. No childcare will be provided.

### **Daily Bible Reading Helps**

As a new year approaches many desire to be more disciplined when it comes to their own personal daily intake of God's Word. Here are some tools many in our church have found to be helpful:

- Daily Bible Reading Plan If you are looking for a helpful daily Bible reading plan then we strongly recommend and encourage you to check out the following link: <a href="www.scripturestoryline.com">www.scripturestoryline.com</a>. It includes a very organized and reasonable reading calendar along with a very helpful daily commentary on the passages you read each day.
- Scripture Memory There are many different approaches and systems that are available for memorizing verses. One that we find particularly helpful are the "Fighter Verses" from Desiring God Ministries. You can access them from the following link: <a href="https://www.fighterverses.com">www.fighterverses.com</a>.

## **Discipleship Communities**

Discipleship Communities is our fancy name for "small groups." Each group meets during the week on a regular basis in someone's home. They are the primary place in which we seek to live as disciples together who love God supremely, one another humbly and the world sacrificially. If you are interested in visiting a Discipleship Community please stop by the Information Table in the lobby for a list of groups, meeting locations and times.

#### **Sunday Morning Offering**

Unlike most churches we do not pass a collection plate each Sunday to collect your financial gifts and offerings. Instead, if you would to financially contribute toward our church related ministries we have an offering box located in the back of the gym.

#### **Contact Us**

If you have any questions about our church or would like any further information please contact us:

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**Elders** 

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