

Christmas

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Someone said that it doesn't seem like Christmas this year. Does it to you, or not? The stores didn't play the Christmas music like they used to do, and I don't remember hearing people speak of the season as they normally did. Most people are probably shopping for gifts as they always do. I'm afraid that for many of us, the gifts are a major part of Christmas. One thing I've noticed about those gifts, are the long lines of people in the stores after Christmas; returning, or exchanging the gifts that they received.

Does it take certain things to make it seem like Christmas to us? Some want snow so they can have the "White Christmas." Somehow it makes them think of when they were young. There are many places where it never snows, but they have Christmas anyway. For others, it is a time when families get together, maybe for the only time of the year. All of these things are alright in our lives, but I hope we remember why we have Christmas.

If we can remember that Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus then we can be happy for

the right reasons. We don't have to have some material things, such as gifts, or snow to have Christmas. It is a shame that millions of people celebrate by drinking and going to parties, but they don't believe in Jesus at all. They celebrate "Xmas" because they leave Christ out.

The bible doesn't tell us to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We do because we are thankful that he came into this world to save us from sin and death. **Isaiah 9:6**, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." The greatest gift that was ever given was given, not by man, but by God. **John 3:16**, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Yes, God gave the gift of eternal life, through Jesus, the Christ.

The gift is offered, but it is up to each of us to accept it. Not everyone has, or will, as people choose what is important in their lives. So many settle for what gives them some temporary pleasure today and don't consider what is important for tomorrow. Like Esau they satisfy the flesh and think little of the future. They that have this way of living will be like Esau in the future as well, he wept bitterly when it was too late.

Families celebrate Christmas in different ways and that is alright. The main thing to me is to not let the "things" take over and crowd out Jesus. Without him, not only would there be no Christmas, but there would be no salvation. We can't stress too much just how important he is to us and the world. If we want to have life, and hope for the future, all we have to do is to place our faith in him and obey his word.

Some folks will feel that this is not the usual Christmas season. They will say that something is missing, or that it just doesn't feel right. Maybe something will be different from the usual happenings that we have come to know. If so, it doesn't change the fact that Jesus was born to be the Savior of the world and that we still remember his birth, life, death, and resurrection.

Thinking back over the years I remember older people talking about things they remember when they were young at Christmas. If they got an orange, or a piece of candy they thought it was a great Christmas. Now so many folks have so much and are not really thankful for any of it. Have we got to where we look for more and more to make us happy and still can't find happiness? **Ecclesiastes 5:10**, "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity."

Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

RAVENNA Food Mart
314 Main Street
Ravenna, KY
Phone 723-6333

Owl Head's Grocery & Feed
Phone 723-7473 South Irvine, Ky.
Novelties - Open 7 Days A Week
Donald & Katherine Dixon, Owners

Advertise Here!
Call 723-5012
The Estill County Tribune

Hardy Oil Company, Inc.
74 River Drive
Irvine, Kentucky
Phone 723-3664

CASH IN A DASH Payday Loans
Buy Gold-Silver
Phone 723-0799
(Irvine, next to Bunt Gross)

Advertise Here!
Call 723-5012
The Estill County Tribune

Gum Springs Church of God
Highway 213 (Furnace Junction)
Call 723-4180
Church Services
Sunday School 10 am • Morning Worship 11:15 am
Sunday Night 6 pm • Wednesday Night 6 pm

Advertise Here!
Call 723-5012
The Estill County Tribune

Advertise Here!
Call 723-5012
The Estill County Tribune

430 Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Joshua, intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

OTHNIEL'S TRIUMPH

CALEB, SON OF JEPHUNNEH, HAS SAID THAT WHOEVER TAKES THE CITY OF KIR-JATH-SE-PHER, LAST STRONGHOLD OF THE GIANTS, WILL RECEIVE HIS DAUGHTER AS WIFE...



...WORD OF THIS PRONOUNCEMENT SOON GOES THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE TRIBE OF JUDAH...

TO WIN CALEB'S DAUGHTER ACH-SAH, A MAN MUST TAKE THE STRONGHOLD OF THE LAST OF THE GIANTS?

BEHOLD, OTHNIEL! CALEB'S DAUGHTER IS COMELY TO THE EYE - ONE COULD NEVER WISH FOR A BETTER WIFE!



COME! LET US SEE THIS CITY OF THE GIANTS!



AND OTHNIEL, ACCOMPANIED BY SOME ADVENTUROUS YOUNG MEN, SPIES OUT THE CITY OF KIR-JATH-SE-PHER.

Next Week OTHNIEL'S ANNOUNCEMENT!

SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

St. Elizabeth Catholic Church
322 5th St., Ravenna, KY
Sunday Mass 9:00 am
Wednesday Mass 6:00 pm
Thursday Mass 6:00 pm
Contact: Father Al Fritsch, S.J.
(606) 723-4705

Honchell's Men's & Boys' Clothing & Shoes
Tuxedo Rental Available
West Irvine Plaza
Irvine, Kentucky
Phone 723-7316

Prayer Circle at Knowlton Church
Call for Prayer
Kenny - 606 723-7451
606 614-5711
606-614-9340
Benny - 859 404-8224
Betty - 859 432-0939
Dallas - 859 582-9752
Willie - 606 454-8794

SAVE-A-LOT
1290 Richmond Road
Irvine, Kentucky
Phone 723-6372

Warren F. Toler Funeral Home
Family Owned and Operated
99 Cedar Grove
www.tolerfuneralhome.com
Phone 723-2183
Obituary Line Phone 723-4242

Roadside Mission Church of God
Welcomes You!
A Bible Teaching Church
Furnace Junction Ravenna, KY
Sunday School & Morning Worship, 10 am
Sunday Evening Evangelistic Service, 6 pm
Wed. Prayer Meeting & Bible Study, 6 pm
Radio Ministry
Sundays, 2:00 p.m. WSKV 104.9 FM

Lewis-Abner Home For Funerals
Since 1929
www.lewisfn.com
224 Main Irvine, KY
Under New Management
723-2151

Inner Beauty Hair, Nails, Salon & Day Spa
363 Richmond Road, Irvine
Phone 723-0118
Joanna Jernigan
Owner & Master Stylist
Stephanie Isaacs
Master Stylist & Nail Tech
Sherry Harrison
Master Stylist
"For All Your Salon & Spa Needs"

Advertise Here!
Call 723-5012
The Estill County Tribune

Emmanuel Baptist Church
Now at 106 Tyler Lane
Irvine, Kentucky 40336
Pastor: Sherl Thomas
Services
Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday Worship 11:00 am
Sunday Evening 6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm
Established
September 12, 1999