

Notes

"Wonderful Counsellor" Isaiah 9:1-7

Lined area for notes.

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Coolum Beach Baptist Church

'To know Christ and make Him known'



"Oh the joys of those who delight in the law of God,
meditating on it day and night." (Psalm 1:2)

03

December

9AM Pastor John

"Wonderful Counsellor"
(Isaiah 9:1-7)

Thought for the Week

THE HUMILITY OF JESUS' BIRTH

I am not sure if you have ever realised this, but the Bible tells us very little about Jesus' actual birth. Out of the four gospels, it is only given one verse – "Mary gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." (Luke 2:7) It is almost frustrating, isn't it? Where are the details about why no one in Bethlehem welcomed them into their home, why there was no better place for them to stay than a barn, why were they not better prepared, who was with them when that baby was born and were there any complications at birth? But you know what? This is something we often see in the Bible. God does not always give us all the details we want, but he does always give us the details we need. When it comes to the birth of Jesus, we get all the details we need to understand one thing with the utmost clarity. Jesus comes as the least. Luke opens this part of his account of Jesus' life with the name of Caesar Augustus, the greatest emperor of the greatest Empire, and the mightiest man on the planet. And then Luke switches his attention to a little baby, born in the most humble of circumstances. Born to a virgin, born in a shed and laid to rest in a feed trough. The contrast is powerful and undeniable.

Humanly speaking we would expect that the Messiah, the Saviour of the world, would be born in circumstances more befitting a king. He should have been born to royalty, not to peasants. He should have been born in a palace, not a shed. He should have been born surrounded by the finest doctors who would have safely brought him into the world. But no. Everyone in Bethlehem turns his parents away. They have nowhere else to go, so he is born in a shed and laid to rest in a manger. Why? Because God will teach us something through Jesus. He will teach us that we see this world completely backwards. He will teach us that the way to be great in God's eyes is to be nothing in the world's eyes. He will teach us that the way to exaltation is through humiliation, that the way to go high is to go low. And he will teach it first and best through his very own Son. "Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being." (Philippians 2:6-7). He came as the least, and he came for the least. He came to not only save us from sin but to show us how to live.

God bless, Pastor John.

Prayer Points

- For Christmas services and events (carols, hampers) – that the gospel will be shared and the love of Christ shown in powerful ways.
- For Abbey and team in Ecuador as they seek to purchase of a new 4WD to get access to remote areas.
- For Jared and Verena in Germany – adjusting to the weather and praise for conversations in the Kebab shop (inviting Turkish people to read the Bible).
- Give thanks for Brian's life and pray for Daphne and the family.
- For John Tomlinson and Ian Ratcliffe in hospital at this time with them there
- the Lord will guide our feet away from evil and make us walk in the way of righteousness

What's on?

MONDAY

5PM Walking Soccer

TUESDAY

9:30AM Playgroup

WEDNESDAY

9AM Prayer Meeting

THURSDAY

9AM Quilters

FRIDAY

4PM Kids Ignite & Youth



If you would like to know more about our Home Groups, contact Pastor John 0408 402 476

BIRTHDAYS: 4th Mardi, Jenny Claven, 5th Julie Rogers, 7th Megan Cracknell, 8th Ruth, 9th Elliott

AGM MEETING TODAY

Our AGM will be held after the service TODAY. This is an Important day for our church family as we will be:

- Voting in our church and ministry leaders for 2024,
- Voting in new church members,
- Celebrating the events of 2023, and
- Getting updates on plans for 2024 and beyond..

Everyone, not just members, is encouraged to come along to this exciting event.

SOS FINAL OUTING FOR 2023

Christmas Breakup Lunch at the Waterfront Hotel this Thursday @ 11.30.

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Happening again this year on 12th December. We will also be putting together some Christmas Hampers, collections are 3rd Dec, 10th Dec.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Sunday 24th December is going to be an amazing day of worship. It begins with our worship service at 9am and it will conclude with our Christmas Eve celebration and supper, starting at 6pm. Please keep that date in your calendars and it would be great if you could bring along a plate to share for supper. There are flyers in the foyer if you would like to take some to invite your neighbours, family and friends.

CHRISTMAS PREACHING SERIES

Over the next four Sundays we will be looking at four names that the prophet Isaiah gives to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6 –

- Wonderful Counsellor – He has the best ideas and strategies for us, so we should follow him.
- Mighty God – He has the power to defeat his enemies easily, so let's take refuge in him.
- Everlasting Father – He loves us endlessly, so let's enjoy him.
- Prince of Peace – he reconciles us while we are still his enemies, so let's rejoice