



The Mustard Seed



Rehoboth Baptist Church Newsletter ~ December 2018



Steve Brown: Don't Block the Light

We all know the story of the innkeeper who turned Mary and Joseph away. "And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7).

That innkeeper has been the subject of countless sermons and Christmas songs. Generally, he comes out on the "short end of the stick." The innkeeper has become the metaphor for unbelievers in our time who are too busy, or too callused, or too insensitive, or too closed to truth to even care about Jesus. How uncaring! How uncaring he must have been to turn away a woman who was obviously ready to deliver her baby...probably a capitalist who was only thinking about profit and convenience...maybe he had just had enough, was tired of problems, and just didn't want one more.

I suspect that, if the innkeeper had known the whole story, he would have made room in his inn. If he was savvy in marketing, he could have made a buck or two on it. If he really knew, he could have created a "Jesus Suite" and advertised it in the newspapers...maybe even put up a bronze plaque that read: "Jesus was born here."

Then again, perhaps the innkeeper was not so crass. Maybe, if he had known, he would have made room in the inn and then joined the shepherds in their worship. Perhaps, if he had known, in later years he would have told his grandchildren that he had provided a room for the Savior. They would have been impressed. Lots of people would have been impressed with the sensitivity and the honor that, had he known, the innkeeper would have given to Joseph and Mary and their new baby.

But, in fact, he didn't know.

When I read the Christmas story this time around, I didn't focus so much on the shepherds, or Zechariah, or the wise men. They all knew; they all worshipped; they all understood. My focus—and believe it or not, my heart—was turned toward the innkeeper, not because he was so bad but because he was so lost and didn't know it.

So, if you will permit me, during this Christmas season, I want to say a good word about the unbelievers—the innkeepers of the world—who just don't know.

They aren't such a bad sort.

I know. I know. They have secularized Christmas and taken it from the believers. We have (according to the supreme court of the land) created a holiday around Christ's birth, one that has become so pagan that we are allowed to celebrate it because it has long since ceased to be "sectarian and Christian." Thus we have permission (because it no longer has religious overtones) to celebrate it in our public institutions.

We have come to celebrate a holiday that has no meaning...sort of a celebration to celebrate. The happy feelings are, well, just happy feelings about happy feelings. We give gifts to one another because, well, just because. We have parties to have parties. No reason. It's just something we, as a culture, have decided to do. After all, it is winter—Christmas breaks the monotony and gives us a reason to have another drink.

How could [they](#) have done this to us? Don't they know that wise men still seek him? Don't they know that we measure our time before and after the birth of Jesus Christ? Don't they understand the importance of the incarnation? Don't they know that Jesus loves them?

No, frankly, they don't. And herewith, at Christmas, is my brief for unbelievers. Maybe it is a reflection of the "burden" God is beginning to give me.

I've been thinking about it and decided that it is wrong for those of us who are Christians to be upset that unbelievers have such a good time at Christmas.

Fred Smith told me once that Christians know unbelievers aren't going to have any fun after they die...so we want to take the fun away from them before then.

When I was small I remember driving through some of the poorer neighborhoods of our town. We drove past the shacks of those who couldn't afford nice homes and probably couldn't afford food. Sometimes we would see a television antenna on the roofs of those dwellings. (Those were the days when only the affluent could afford television.) Someone would inevitably say, "Will you look at that! Can you believe it? They can't even afford food and a decent place to live but they have a television?"

On those occasions my mother, with great wisdom and compassion, would say, "We should not begrudge the poor a television. It is perhaps their only escape from what must be a very hard life."

Maybe we should think something like that about unbelievers' celebration of Christmas. They don't understand but I'm glad they're finding a respite from what must be a very hard life. They don't know about Jesus and how much better it would be if they knew. They simply don't know. So, I'm glad for their parties and their fun. I'm happy that Jesus (even if they don't know him) has provided them with an excuse to be happy...if only briefly.

But on the other hand, one of the reasons they don't



The Mustard Seed



Rehoboth Baptist Church Newsletter ~ December 2018

know is because we—with our super-serious, spiritual and godly remembrance of Christmas—have given the impression that if the “innkeepers” of the world only knew what we knew, they would be as miserable and as intense as we are.

Maybe they don’t know because we decided that Christmas was certainly not a time to be happy and to celebrate.

Every year (generally when I mention that I’m married to “Miss Christmas Spirit”) I get letters from people who say that Christians have blasphemed (or something like that) Christ by celebrating with a tree and presents...which, as all good Christians ought to know, are pagan practices.

I always answer their questions with the serious comment that when we use pagan symbols in our celebration of Christian events, we are demonstrating the fact that Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords. Often I will say that pagan symbols are quite appropriate because Christ has conquered and he who conquers is always free to use the spoils from those who have lost the war.

But that isn’t what I want to say. What I want to say is this: Will you lighten up a bit? You’re causing Jesus to blush. If you must be so somber, go do it in a cave somewhere. You’re blocking the light.

That is a long way “around the barn” to say something important: I hope you have a [joyous and wondrous time](#) this Christmas. It is my prayer that you rejoice and laugh and sing so much so that your Christmas parties make unbelievers’ parties look like funerals.

After all, we have reason to celebrate: God demonstrated his unconditional love for us that first Christmas, Christ has come, and we are forgiven and loved.

In fact, innkeepers may even want to check out our party...

Time to Draw Away

Read Isaiah 9:2-7, Matthew 5:14-16 & John 8:12

Are you blocking the light or reflecting it? How can you share your celebration of Christmas with unbelieving friends and family? Christmas is good news. In his coming, God loves us, forgives us and accepts us as his own. It all started with Christmas. So lighten up.

Mustard Seed ~ December 2018

Steve Brown: Don’t Block the Light.....	1
MISSION NEWS – Slaigers.....	2
Rejoice in the Lord's Sovereignty.....	4
Brian Hess: Some Thoughts on Christmas.....	4
1 Corinthians 13 Christmas Style.....	4
Chronicles of The Door: The Birth – Chapter 8.....	5
Twelve Reasons for Christmas.....	7
Give yourself a Presolution.....	7
December 2018 Calendar	8
January 2019 Calendar.....	9

Visit us at: www.RehobothBaptistChurch.org
Ideas & Comments: dla85@dlittlehale.com

MISSION NEWS – Slaigers

In December we will be featuring 2 of our missionaries, Danny Croce, and Russ and Beth White.

New Hope Correctional Ministry- Plymouth, MA- Changing Lives from the Inside Out

Purpose and Mission:

To provide comprehensive, non-denominational Chaplain services to a correctional facility by providing spiritual care to the resident in-mates, staff, officials, and to the community that the facility serves.

To provide the good news of salvation through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to those being served, and to instruct and disciple these resident inmates to a new life of hope and service.

To provide support, care, practical assistance, and spiritual guidance to selected inmates upon release.

Chaplain Dan's Biography and Testimony:

I saw the light in 1985, while serving a 2 year sentence at the Plymouth County jail. Someone gave me a Bible, and I read about Jesus of Nazareth. I was never so amazed when I read of the things that Jesus both said and did. Touching the blind and they see, the deaf and they hear, the lame and they walk. I fell in love with Jesus.

But, when Jesus started to talk about sin, I soon began to realize that I was in trouble! Especially, when I read, "And these will be cast into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." When I saw Christ, as He is portrayed in Holy Scripture, I began to see myself. When I saw perfection, (Jesus), I saw how far short I had missed the mark.

On the following Sunday, when the call for Chapel came from the Correctional Officer, I yelled out my cell number- "16!". I grabbed my Bible and went to the Chapel! After Chapel was over, I went up to Chaplain Bob Hanson and told him, "I'm in big trouble!" Bob asked what the matter was. I told him, "I've been reading this Book, and I've been doing wrong for a long time. *The outer darkness, weeping and gnashing of teeth--are we talking about hell?!!*" Bob said, "Yes, we are. You need to be saved!" As the correctional officer motioned with his head for me to move on, Chaplain Bob said, "Wait a minute! When you get back to your cell, get on your knees and tell God that you know you are a sinner, and you believe that Jesus died for your sins, and that God the Father raised Him back up again, and ask Jesus to come into your heart."

I did what Bob said. I did it so many times I cannot count them. I knew that if I was judged according to my sins, I would surely go to hell. Jesus soon began to change my life. He took away the desire to smoke cigarettes. I had smoked for 20 years. Then we went to the marijuana, free-basing cocaine, drinking, gambling, and swearing. The Lord took away the



The Mustard Seed



Rehoboth Baptist Church Newsletter ~ December 2018

desire to do these things, and replaced them with a desire to love and serve Him.

When I was released, Chaplain Bob to find a good Bible-believing church, and to become involved. I did that too. I served the Lord by teaching Sunday school at Boston Children's Hospital, visiting the mentally and physically handicapped children, and sharing Christ with them. I started a Christian Basketball Outreach League, and visited jails and prisons to tell other about Jesus. At this time, I began to sense the Lord's calling.

I was asked by Barry Nilson, the area director for Prison Fellowship, "What are you going to do in life, Danny?" I told Barry, "I don't know. All I do know is that I want to serve the Lord." Barry asked me if I had a college education, and I told him, "No." "Well, you are going to need one," he said. He told me to pray about applying for the Charles W. Colson Scholarship. It is for ex-offenders, and I met all the prerequisites. I did pray, and I was accepted at Wheaton College the following year. In September of 1991, I began my freshman year at Wheaton in Illinois. As my wife and I prayed about God's leading and guidance for His will in our lives, Chaplain Bob Hanson called us from Plymouth. "Danny, they have built a new jail here. It's three times the size of the old one. The sheriff wants me to come on full time, but I can't do it. Please pray about coming back here after finishing school and be the Chaplain. My wife and I prayed, and in 1995 I graduated with a B.A. in Bible/Theology. I was ordained in July of 1995, and began serving as the full time Chaplain in the Plymouth County Correctional Facility on October 1, 1996. Chaplain Bob Hanson continues to help me in every situation.

My wife Kim and I have 5 children. Melissa, Daniel, Thomas, Elizabeth, and Dara Jane.

Praises and prayer requests from a recent e-mail: Danny thanks us for our prayers & support for his ministry.

Please pray:

For a vehicle for a soon-to-be-released inmate to be able to get to work.

For our Bible study class to not be cancelled because of space.

For some Bibles for the inmates.

Russ and Beth White - World Gospel Mission- Tenwek Hospital, Kenya

Their Biography-

We have spent the last 20 years at Tenwek Hospital, where Russ has been a surgeon and Beth his support—a stay-at-home Mom, homeschool/co-op teacher, and part of the Tenwek community. We first went to Tenwek with Samaritan's Purse World Medical Mission for 6 months during Russ's surgical residency. We felt God was calling us to return full time after his training. While at Tenwek, Russ discovered that esophageal cancer was an endemic problem, so he chose to pursue further cardiothoracic training after his residency and before returning to Kenya. Through the help of MedSend- an organization that helps pay

the student loans of medical professionals in missions, we were able to return to the mission field directly after Russ's training.

We chose to serve at Tenwek largely because we had heard that they were interested in training medical professionals - there was already a nursing school-something that was important to us.

When we first arrived full time, Tenwek was just starting to train medical students and interns- doctors who had just graduated from medical school. Now we graduate 16 interns per year. Russ was also a part of starting a surgical residency through Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons. Tenwek now trains 4 surgical residents, 2 orthopedic residents, 3 family practice residents, and 1 cardiothoracic fellow each year. It is a privilege to train and disciple these men and women in medicine and in their faith and to get to know them and their families as they navigate God's call on their lives.

We went to Tenwek with 3 little boys, and we were blessed with a 4th son and a daughter while we were here. After being homeschooled in their younger years, the boys have all graduated from Rift Valley Academy, and have either graduated from or are in college in the U.S. Anna is still with us, and hopes to go to RVA for high school.

Besides doing general surgery, Russ has been involved in treating, screening for, and doing research on esophageal cancer. More recently, he has been operating on and developing a team to help a wide range of patients with congenital heart defects and rheumatic heart disease. He enjoys the blessings of being able to share Christ's transforming power for hearts as he works to treat and fix physical hearts. Russ was recently awarded a grant to begin funding a new cardiothoracic program at Tenwek. God has been good in the many ways He has provided!

Tenwek's motto is "We Treat, Jesus Heals." We have seen this to be true over and over, and we look forward to the humbling ways He will continue to show us in the future.

Praise:

- For the transforming power of the Gospel
- For the faithfulness of the Lord as He continues to bless the ministry at Tenwek Hospital
- For the grant awarded for the new cardiothoracic program

Prayer:

- For health, strength, protection, and encouragement for Russ and Beth
- That the Lord will guide and direct the lives of their children- Andrew, Adam, Peter, James and Anna
- For the ongoing research with cancer, heart disease, and heart defects
- That patients and families would have open hearts to the Gospel
- For the medical staff and their families

Thank you for praying!



The Mustard Seed



Rehoboth Baptist Church Newsletter ~ December 2018

Rejoice in the Lord's Sovereignty

by Max Lucado

The next time you fear the future, rejoice in the Lord's sovereignty. Rejoice in what he has accomplished. Rejoice that he is able to do what you cannot do. Fill your mind with thoughts of God.

"He is the Creator, who is blessed forever."
(Romans 1:25)

"He is the same yesterday, today, and forever."
(Hebrews 13:8)

"His years will never end."
(Psalm 102:27 NIV)

He is king, supreme ruler, absolute monarch, and overlord of all history. An arch of his eyebrow and a million angels will pivot and salute! Every throne is a footstool to his. Every crown is papier-mache next to his. He consults no advisers. He needs no congress. He reports to no one. He is in charge.

Sovereignty gives the saint the inside track to peace. Others see the problems of the world and wring their hands. We see the problems of the world and bend our knees!



Brian Hess: Some Thoughts on Christmas

While watching the parade on Thanksgiving Day with my family, I was struck by a song that seemed to express the deepest desires and wishes of our culture. A popular children's character sang a song about his sadness at seeing the emptiness all around him, the meanness on the streets, and the broken hearts of his friends. But he knew there was some goodness to be found inside his heart, at least during the holiday season. His song concluded with the words "I believe in...Santa Claus."

I think there is a reason that Santa has replaced Jesus as the primary personality behind Christmas in America. Santa distributes presents to good girls and boys, and even the bad ones usually get at least a lump of coal. We are reminded that "Santa Claus is coming to town," so we should "be good for

goodness' sake." Most importantly, Santa is an object of faith in whom children are encouraged to believe, and who is seemingly omnipresent and infinitely generous. He does not offend, does not ask us to change our lives, and does not disturb our plans for ourselves.

What a contrast between Jolly Old Saint Nick, who made his grand entrance on Thanksgiving Day surrounded by confetti, marching bands, and general well-wishing; and Jesus Christ, who entered the world in a dirty cave surrounded by animals and a trembling young Jewish family.

What a contrast between the one who gives material gifts to the well-behaved, and the one who would "save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21).

What a contrast between the one whose gifts wear out almost as soon as they are unwrapped, and the one who tells his disciples, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you" (John 14:27).

This Christmas, let us remember that "the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). As Christians, we celebrate Christmas as a reminder of the ultimate Giver who gave us his Son so that we could enter his kingdom. This is a gift that children will never outgrow, and which parents still possess when they grow old. When we see the emptiness of the world around us, let us answer with a different song.

This Christmas, let us sing to our loved ones that "I believe in...Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 13 Christmas Style

©By Sharon Jaynes

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.

Merry Christmas and lots of love to you and yours!



The Mustard Seed



Rehoboth Baptist Church Newsletter ~ December 2018

Chronicles of The Door: The Birth – Chapter 8

by Gene Edwards - Published by Tyndale House 1991

She was a teenager. She was beautiful. She was also in love. Only a few days ago she had been betrothed to the young man she adored.

Years ago, in her early childhood, this young woman's parents had moved from their home in Judea and resettled in Galilee. Her fiancé, a carpenter by trade, had recently moved from the village of Bethlehem to Nazareth, to open a carpentry shop.

These two young people, Mary and Joseph by name, had met at one of the local festivals and fallen in love. Soon thereafter, Joseph had gone to both their parents asking permission to marry. The two families decided that a marriage was permissible, but the date decided upon was nearly a year away. Joseph was poor, they had agreed; his carpentry business just beginning. Therefore, wisdom dictated that the two should wait at least a year before marrying.

Now, on this very ordinary day, it was destined that an archangel would pay a visit to this young maiden.

"Mary," came a voice from behind her.

Having never heard a voice quite so commanding, Mary turned quickly about. What she saw caused her to fall to her knees. There was no question in her mind that the creature standing before her belonged to the citizenship of the other realm.

Mary could not imagine what to expect from the mouth of this strange being. Some terrible command? Perhaps he would smite her with some horrible disease. His words could not have held a more astounding surprise.

Mary, you are a very blessed young woman. The Lord himself is with you.

Mary's eyes darted about as she tried to grasp what these words might mean.

You do not need to be afraid. Among all the women who have dwelt upon this earth since Eve, you are most favored. You are going to conceive a child in your womb. You will bring forth a Son, His name will be Jesus. He will be called the Son of the Most High God, and he will be great.

The throne of his ancestor David will be given to your Son by the Lord God himself. He will reign forever and forever. The kingdom of your Son will never end.

"I ... I ...," Mary stammered. "I do not understand! I am a virgin! I have never touched a man, nor has any man touched me. And my betrothed, it will be a long time before we shall marry."

Mary's words met with a long silence, and Mary did not like that. She ventured, therefore, to lift her head and look upon this fearsome-looking creature standing before her. To her surprise, what she saw on his face was kindness and gentleness. But more. He seemed to be somewhat awestruck himself. For one fleeting moment she sensed that the angel beheld her with as much wonder as she did him.

Seeing the gentleness upon the face of this

unearthly being, Mary began to feel a deep sense of courage fill her heart. Drawing upon that courage, she dared to rise to her feet and look directly into the eyes of the archangel. She waited.

At last Gabriel spoke.

It will be no man; it will be the Holy Spirit. He will come upon you. The power of the Most High God will overshadow you. That which will be conceived in you, the holy One who will be born from you, will be called the Son of God. Even now your cousin, Elizabeth, though she is old and past the age of motherhood, has, nonetheless, conceived a son. Elizabeth, who was barren, is now already six months with child.

Mary's eyes widened. What she had heard concerning herself was beyond all understanding, but hearing that Elizabeth was also about to bear a child seemed even more astounding.

Gabriel turned to go, as is the way of angels when they have finished their task. But on this occasion he paused for a moment to stand one more in awe of the young woman chosen to bring the Almighty God into humanity's realm.

A mere woman, he mused, *incredulous. A human!*

Aloud, he said, "It seems that there is absolutely nothing impossible with our God."

Stepping back toward the Door, Gabriel was stopped short as Mary boldly advanced toward him. He could not recall having ever seen such a show of human boldness in the presence of an angel. Furthermore, this time it was Mary who had a pronouncement to make. She spoke with such passion that Gabriel was, for an instant, taken aback.

"Behold, I stand here, the handmaiden of my Lord. The words that you have spoken I receive. Let what you have said be done unto me."

Within the glow of that angelic presence, Mary thought she might have seen a soft smile cross Gabriel's face.

With this mutually unprecedented encounter, Gabriel stepped onto the threshold of the Door. As he did, he whispered to himself, *Truly, our God has chosen well.*

=====
And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, ... he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

"Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel."

And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother,

"Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Luke 2:25-35



The Mustard Seed



Rehoboth Baptist Church Newsletter ~ December 2018

Twelve Reasons for Christmas

1. "For this I was born and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth." (John 18:37)
2. "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil."
(1 John 3:8; cf. Hebrews 2:14-15)
3. "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." (Mark 2:17)
4. "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."
(Luke 19:10)
5. "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)
6. "God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." (Galatians 4:5)
7. "For God so loved the world that whoever believes on him shall not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world but that the world through him might be saved." (John 3:16).
8. "God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him." (1 John 4:9; cf. John 10:10).
9. "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."
(1 Timothy 1:15).
10. "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against . . . that the thoughts of many may be revealed"
(Luke 2:34f).
11. "He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed." (Luke 4:18)
12. "Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy."
(Romans 15:7-8; cf. John 12:27f).

Give yourself a Presolution.

What on earth is a presolution? Read on. The Puritan theologian John Owen asked: *What do you think about when you are not thinking about anything in particular?* In modern terms, what is the default setting of your mind? What do you revert to when you are not being forced by work, or some other necessity, to think in a certain direction? That, Owen says, is an indicator of your spiritual mindedness.

Owen's question caused me to ask: What *do* I think about at those times? What is it that my mind reverts to? As a pastor I would be expected to answer that I think about God and the things of God, but I don't – at least not nearly as much as I could wish. I find that I actually have very little time when I am not thinking

about something that I *have* to think about. Now, it is true that most of the things I *have* to think about are related to God. I think about sermons and lessons, the ministries of the church, God's people, counseling and so on. But, when my mind shifts out of ministry gear, instead of resting in God and pondering deeply about Him I find myself thinking about all kinds of things, most of them have to do with other, non-ministry things that I *just have to do*.

I suspect that many of you have a similar experience. When you shift gear out of the routine of life you don't think as deeply about God as you wish you did. The fact is that we are such a busy people that we do not have enough time to think seriously about anything other than the tasks that are before us. The pace and diversity of twenty-first century life only serves to complicate matters. Indeed, the pace of the Christian life, especially for those who carry the bulk of church ministry, leaves time for little else, little time for really deep biblical reflection! We feel this most acutely as we rush through our daily devotions! So, what to do? I am going to give myself a presolution.

A presolution is a combination of a present and a resolution, and because it is the time of year that it is, I am going to combine a Christmas present with a New Years Resolution. I am going to give myself the gift of the word of God, not by purchasing another Bible, or an audio CD of the Bible, but a special journal and then writing Scripture in it. I am going to do a 17:18 project. What is that? Something I found at Reformed Heritage Books (www.heritagebooks.org).

In Deuteronomy 17, Moses is leaving final instructions concerning the future of Israel. As a prophet of God, Moses foretells of when Israel will place a king over the nation (v. 14). In verse 18, the king is commanded to not simply acquire a copy of the law (the entire book of Deuteronomy) from the "scroll publishing house," but to hand write his own copy of the law. Here's the passage *"And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel"* (Deuteronomy 17:18-20 ESV).

My 17:18 project will be to copy the book of Romans. I will NOT rush it. I will write just a few verses each day and pray that as I write His word God will write them on my heart and draw me closer to Himself. In Colossians 3:16, Paul writes: *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom..."* I'm praying that my presolution will accomplish that.

Why not give one to yourself?

Christmas blessings.
Pastor Ron

Rehoboth Baptist Church

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 11:00 am Ladies Luncheon
2 9:00 am Sun.School 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Evening Service	3 Bill Rose	4 7:00 pm Deaconess 7:00 pm Missions	5 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting 8:00 pm Choir	6 4:00 pm Good News Club	7	8
9 9:00 am Sun.School 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Evening Service	10	11 7:00 pm Elders & Deacons	12 Steve Wick 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting 8:00 pm Choir	13 4:00 pm Good News Club	14 Bob Payne	15
16 9:00 am Sun.School 10:30 am Worship 12:30 pm Soup and Sandwich, Caroling, no evening service	17 Anne Entwistle	18 7:00 pm Eld./Deac. Pray & Visit	19 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting 8:00 pm Choir	20 4:00 pm Good News Club	21	22
23 9:00 am Sun.School 10:30 am Worship	24 Gert Sullivan Christmas Eve 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christine Guest Christmas Day 8:30 am Christmas Morning Service	26	27 Fred Dick	28	29
30 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Evening Service	31 New Year's Eve 6:00 pm Family Game Night					

Rehoboth Baptist Church

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Claudio & Julie Rodrigues 12:00 am Day of Prayer New Year's Day	2 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting	3 4:00 pm Good News Club	4 Emma-Grace Kitchen	5 Noah Phelps
6 9:00 am Sun.School 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Evening Service	7	8 7:00 pm Elders & Deacons	9 Ron & Mickie Bridge 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting 8:00 pm Choir	10 4:00 pm Good News Club	11 Marc Brochu	12
13 9:00 am Sun.School 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Evening Service	14	15 7:00 pm Eld./Deac. Pray & Visit	16 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting 8:00 pm Choir	17 4:00 pm Good News Club	18	19
20 9:00 am Sun.School 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Members Meeting	21 Benjamin Kitchen Martin Luther King Jr. Day	22	23 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting 8:00 pm Choir	24 Bob & Sue Munroe 4:00 pm Good News Club	25 6:00 pm Conversational Dinners	26
27 9:00 am Sun.School 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Evening Service	28	29	30 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting 8:00 pm Choir	31 4:00 pm Good News Club		