

Bible Doctrines To Live By, Inc.
 PO Box 564
 Comstock Park, MI 49321
 Phone: 616-785-3618
 Fax: 616-785-3327
 E-mail: staff@bibledoctrines.org
 Web: www.bibledoctrines.org

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TRUTH Aflame



A Publication of Bible Doctrines To Live By, Inc.

Winter Special Edition 2025



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Christ Died for your sins

The Need:

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)
 "For the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23a)
 "...there is none that doeth good, no not one." (Romans 3:12b)

The Result:

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." (Romans 5:12)

God's Response

"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)
 "In Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins..." (Ephesians 1:7)

Man's Response

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the Gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved...For I delivered unto you that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures; And **that he was buried** according to the Scriptures, and that He **rose again** the third day according to the Scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

Believe it. Have Eternal Life

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The words of the angel to the shepherds that first "Christmas" night, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to ALL people" (Luke 2:10), sent a shaft of sunshine piercing through the darkness of sin and despair. That same Christ is still alive and still saves, yet "Christmas" today will find multitudes going through the empty form of "Christmas" observance, still ignorant as to how they might appropriate this great joy which is offered to ALL people.

Surely never have the good tidings of great joy been more needed than today. Sin and misery, sorrow and despair are on every hand, even though the world is doing all within its power to offer pleasure and forgetfulness to a sin-burdened people, but all to no avail. Try as one may, with the guilt and burden of sin bearing down upon the soul, there can never be true joy and peace, and "none can keep alive his own soul" (Psa. 22:29). "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezek. 18:20). Christ is man's superlative need. It is either Christ or eternal ruin.

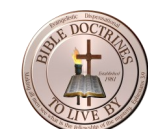
The next words of the angel reveal the source and means of receiving this great joy: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). To Israel, in bondage to sin, under the curse of the Law, and ruled by a Gentile overlordship, the advent of Jesus, the Saviour, was indeed good

tidings of great joy. He came to "save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1: 21), to "redeem them that were under the law" (Gal. 4: 5), and to be "an horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David; that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve Him without fear" (Luke 1:69, 74).

This glorious message of joy is not limited to Israel alone. Into the heart under the dominion of and in bondage to sin, Christ is ready to come today with His message of joy, peace and forgiveness of sins. He is the Saviour of the world, and "whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins" (Acts 10:43). He is Lord of all, "for there is NO difference between the Jew and Greek; for the same Lord over ALL is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Rom. 10:12-13). "The God of hope fill you with ALL JOY and peace in believing" (Rom. 15:13).

How is this joy received? Meditation upon the glorious birth of Jesus alone cannot bring joy. Feasting, merriment, and observance of "Christmas" brings but a temporary shadow over the glaring sinfulness of the human heart. Exchanging gifts and feeding the poor and hungry still leave the heart, aching with the guilt of sin, simply temporarily stimulated and relieved. Peace with God through forgiveness

To make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery. Ephesians 3:9



of sins, and joy in the Lord as the fruit of the indwelling Spirit, come not through outward rites and ceremonies, nor inward or outward works of man. Rather, they come through the heart's belief and trust in the redemptive work of Christ, in His taking on Himself our sins in cruel death on the tree and by God imputing to us His Divine righteousness and holiness. There is "joy and peace IN BELIEVING" (Rom. 15:13)

As the world at this season contemplates the wondrous event of the entrance of the Son of God into this sin-cursed world as the Babe of Bethlehem, may our minds dwell on that greater mystery, the entrance of Christ into the heart of a sinner saved by grace. "To whom God would make known the riches of the glory of this mystery...Christ IN you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27-28). The shepherds glorified and praised God for the wonderful word of the entrance of the Christ-child into the world. What greater glorifying and praising God should be the expressed by the one today who contemplates the matchless grace of God in Christ's entrance into his heart by faith. Small wonder that the apostle challenged the lives of the careless Corinthian saints. "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

In the tabernacle worship, they were to make a perfume to put before the testimony in the tabernacle of the congregation, and God forbade the making of any perfume to be made to smell like it that would be used outside of tabernacle worship. It was not for mere personal gratification, but to be "holy for the Lord" (Exod. 30:37). Similarly in this age, the perfume of praise for the matchless grace of

Truth Aflame is published by Bible Doctrines to Live By, Inc., and is an independent Bible study and evangelistic journal. We are a fundamental, evangelistic and dispensational ministry endeavoring to teach the whole Word of God from a mid-Acts Pauline perspective. We believe and proclaim that Christ died for all and that the offer of salvation is extended to all and received by simple faith in the death, burial, and resurrection

God is not for us to be occupied with for our own personal pleasure, but set apart for Him. Let us beware of our being so occupied with our exalted position in Christ and the mystery of His indwelling, that we fail in remembering these graces are not for our personal pleasure, but are for the express purpose "that we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ" (Eph. 1:12). We are holy for the Lord. Let us glorify God in our body. "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him" (Col. 2: 6).

Those who at this season of the year are occupied with Christ as the babe and the man of Nazareth may well mind earthly things. Let us who are saved by His grace and possess Christ within as the hope of glory, as we contemplate our exalted blessings in Him, heed the Word, "Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God" (Col. 3: 2-3) "When Christ, who is our Life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory" (Col. 3: 4). Our Head (Christ) is in heaven; our life is hid with Christ in God; we are seated in the heavenlies in Him.

Then, let us remember our feet are upon the earth in order that we might manifest in our walk, our manner of life, that we indeed have a heavenly citizenship, by lives of separation, and witnessing for the Christ who died for all. May our aim be that of the apostle, "whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. Whereunto I also labour, striving according to His working that worketh in me mightily" (Col. 1:28-29).

What abiding joy there is in salvation and service under Christ. "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice" (Philp. 4:4). "For the joy of the Lord is your strength." (Neh. 8: 10).

A Joyous "Christmas" to ALL.

of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Truth Aflame is published at least three times a year (Winter, Spring/Summer, and Fall) and is sent free of charge to all who desire to know and grow in their knowledge of the Word of God.

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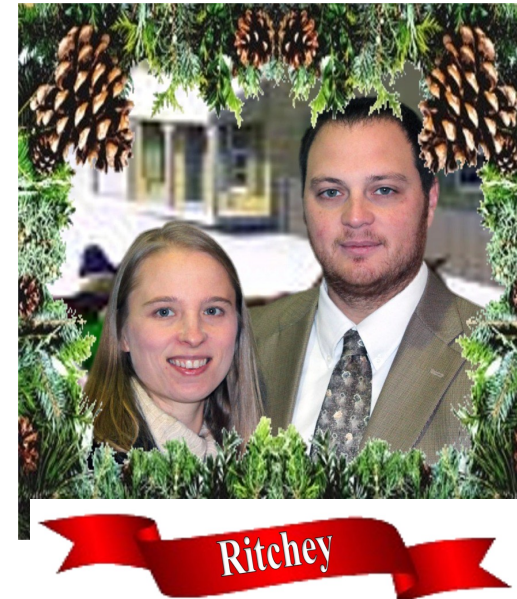
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The end of the year is upon us. The days are darker, and the weather is colder. Yet, while seasons may change, our full blessings in Christ remain unchanged.

I'm not sure about you, but Jennifer and I are getting older every year. Our fourth son is now a senior in high school and has been working for a mechanic for several months. Our only daughter turns sixteen toward the beginning of next year and is already looking at driver's training. Our three adult sons (and daughter-in-law) are doing well. Jennifer and I cherish the few times we can all be together. We also added another member to the family. After protesting for decades, I finally caved and welcomed Azula into the family. Azula is an Aussiedoodle puppy with a lot of energy.

We could never thank you enough for your faithful support and encouragement of our family.

As far as the ministry of Bible Doctrines To Live By goes, Jennifer continues to remain busy from the orders that come in. We have seen the online orders increase during the year and have witnessed a greater interest in literature overall. She is the voice you will usually hear if you call our office, and the one generally keeping

all things decent and in order.

You can hear a little bit more regarding my role in the President's letter on page 8. BDTLB is stepping out in faith next year to let people know about the exciting things that happen at BDTLB and asking people to partner with us. Keep this opportunity in prayer.

Since its inception, Bible Doctrines has existed because of faithful people like you who have supported the Lord's work. We wish we could thank you all individually for making it possible to minister in this way.

Quite often throughout the past year, I have found myself being reminded that "Our Savior is worth it!" Times are tough. Kindness is rare. Opinions are shouted dogmatically. Criticism abounds. Discretionary spending is fading. Yet, our Savior is worth it even when everything else fails and falls apart. He is worthy of our faith.

When you find yourself feeling down or frustrated, recall everything the Savior went through to make you eternally rich in Him. He left His rightful place at the right hand of the Father to fully identify with humanity in the humblest of circumstances. He gave up the glory and honor He deserved to be rejected and ridiculed by the very people He came to save. With no sin of His own, He took our sin upon Himself, sacrificing Himself, so that we could have the very righteousness of God credited to our account. He rose again from the dead, earning eternally victory over death. In doing so, He earned the right to have every knee bow to Him one day. God, solely on His grace, offers the gift of eternal life to all who will trust in the work of Jesus Christ.

As we enter the holiday season, I trust you and your family and loved ones will take the time to appreciate the never-ending joy available in Christ Jesus. No matter what fractions exist in society; no matter what disappointments life has thrown in your way; no matter how much costs go up; nothing will change the fact that salvation in Jesus Christ has been fully paid for. I trust you will share this wonderful news of the grace of God with others this year and next.

Matt and Jennifer Ritchey



McGarvey

It's that time of year once again that we share a personal, from the heart, greeting to you, our friends, supporters, and prayer warriors. It is only because of your continued faithfulness to the ministry, and to Susan and I personally, that we have been able to dedicate yet another year to our ministry for the Lord. And what a year it has been as we have labored here at the Bethesda Church, North Branch, Minnesota, and at the same time carried on our duties

with BDTLB. Our online adult broadcasts have continued, and Susan has begun season four of her Miss Susan's Bible Buddies.

In a few weeks, we will say goodbye to the folks here at the Bethesda Church and return home to Grand Rapids and the BDTLB office. We will spend several months in the office working while at the same time putting together a traveling ministry schedule to visit churches and conduct Bible conferences. We ask for your continued prayer and support as we seek avenues for ministry.

This is also the time of year that we move into the holiday season with Thanksgiving followed by Christmas. For the believer, this season presents us a reminder that in all things we need to be thankful (1 Thess. 5:18; Col. 3:17), and that centers primarily on the gift of the season, Jesus Christ who came into the world to save sinners (1 Tim. 1:15). Through faith and trust in the finished work of Christ, man receives the greatest gift possible, eternal life in Glory with our Savior. What a season!

Along with our thanks for your continued prayers and support, please know that it is our deepest desire that you and yours enjoy a very blessed Christ-filled Christmas and New Year.

We truly love you all and seek the Lord's continued blessing in your lives and families.

Joel and Susan McGarvey



COMING 2026

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A Message from the President

The year 2026 will mark 45 years of ministry for Bible Doctrines To Live By (BDTLB). Lee and Joel have left a stable foundation and a clear mission. It is my desire to position BDTLB to continue to minister the Gospel of the Grace of God for the years ahead.

Society is not the same today as it was 45 years ago. 45 years ago, if you needed to make a call, you used a landline or a pay-phone. Your mailbox was full of snail mail and ads because you couldn't send an email. Your newspapers were printed. Your news was delivered locally. Your research papers couldn't be googled or checked with AI; you needed library cards and encyclopedias. You attended church, school, work, and doctor's visits in-person. Computers would sound like sci-fi. Don't get me started on how much things cost!

Oftentimes I miss what I consider simpler and slower times. But here's the thing: we can either bemoan what is lost, or we can recognize it and make choices to effectively minister God's grace. I am determined that, if people aren't willing to come to us, we need to be willing to go where they are in order to reach them. Besides, the Apostle Paul did not sit in a church at Antioch waiting for the people of Ephesus and Corinth and Philippi and Thessalonica to come to him. He met them at the synagogues and riversides and marketplaces and jails.

A passage that has been going through my head for months is 1 Corinthians 9:19-23:

"For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law...that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you."

Paul is not talking about compromising his mission or message. He is declaring that he is willing to make himself uncomfortable to meet people where they are for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In 2026 and beyond, Bible Doctrines To Live By needs to be willing to utilize the methods available for the gospel's sake.

We will be increasing our communication in the upcoming year, including a very special project that will be revealed in 2026 encouraging partnering with us to reach the world for Christ. If you are not sure if you are on our email list, send an email to staff@bibledoctrines.org to make sure you remain informed in how the Lord is using BDTLB. Thank you for your interest and support! Have a blessed holiday season.

"My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior" Luke 1:46-47.

Mary had traveled between 80 and 100 arduous miles south into the hill country outside Jerusalem to visit Elizabeth and Zacharias. At the sound of Mary's voice, baby John leaped in Elizabeth's womb. Elizabeth then shared her disbelief at Mary's arrival before giving Mary a message of great hope! "And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord" (Luke 1:45). God was going to see this through. He was going to finish what He started! What great hope we have today, because God finished what He started. He always finishes what He starts. That includes the good work He has begun in us who believe. He will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ (Philp. 1:6).

As we approach the holiday season, and specifically Christmas, these words of Mary resonate with our family. Our desire is always that our life will point people to Christ and that we will be found rejoicing in God our Savior.

As 2025 draws to an end and 2026 comes into full view, we want to thank you for partnering with Bible Doctrines and our family. We could not do what we do without you. It has been your partnership both financially and prayerfully that has enabled us to travel and minister to people across the country and around the world and point them to Christ. Wherever ministry takes us, we are thankful that we can do it together as a



Turners

family and together with you. It truly is an awesome opportunity and responsibility God has given us in this season of life. We pray that we are faithful stewards with both the resources and responsibilities He has provided.

Please know that we recognize the sacrifices you have made to support our work, and we are grateful. We will be praying that your soul also magnifies the Lord wherever life takes you in 2026. Until we see you again, live in His all-consuming grace!

Paul and Rebecca Turner and Family



PODCAST

With Paul & Rebecca Turner

All Consuming Grace exists to challenge, equip, and transform lives through the Grace of God.

A Ministry of Bible Doctrines To Live By



We are praying you have a blessed Christmas and joyful New Year. On behalf of the Board of Directors of Bible Doctrines To Live By, I send greetings. As we gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, I am reminded of how we are blessed to have the completed Word of God. We remember the conduct of those who heard the truth at Berea.

Act 17:10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

Act 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Act 17:12 Therefore many of them believed; also, of honorable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

These individuals were searching for truth, not locked into unbelief as those described in the beginning of the chapter. I thank God for all of you who search God's Word for the truth. How matchless is His Grace.

We express our thanksgiving for all of our fellow members in Christ, for your prayerful support of Bible Doctrines. We could not carry on this most effective ministry without the prayers and financial support of you all.



Board of Directors

To God be the Glory,
Neil Schnaath
Board Chairman

SPECIAL OFFER



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Lippincott

Christmas 2025! With this being my ninth Christmas with Bible Doctrines, I am sitting here wondering where the years have gone, especially since I have become "great-grandma" this year. How could it be that my grandson has a baby boy? My mind instantly goes to Jesus's birth and I ponder what his life would have been like and how Mary would have felt. A foster grandson turned one last week, and another is due in June, bringing the total number of grandchildren to 14. God has blessed my family abundantly and I am thankful for each one.

I have learned that along with the high moments, we have to face the lows. This will be our second Christmas without Mom. For the first one we were all numb, saying goodbye to her on November 15. Her loss makes me wonder even more what Heaven is like! I am so thankful for that final hope that she is safe, at peace, and at home with our Savior. My sister and I are working on finishing her last Bible Study, "Praising My Savior". It touched

me that she was so determined to keep writing even as she was sick. How precious her words are now as we reflect back on her life! You will not want to miss this study! It is exciting to see her words left behind still touching hearts. She always commented that the printed page is what would last.

As I complete my fourth year as bookkeeper for Bible Doctrines, I have learned how to pay the bills online, itemize and record expenses, create invoices and sales receipts, and record online orders and payments. Thank you for your support as I update inventory, file tax payments both monthly and quarterly, reconcile all four bank accounts, and keep the details of Quickbooks up to date. God has blessed me with this remote opportunity, as Dad needs someone with him now. At 94, he is doing great, but he sure misses Mom after 70 years together and is dealing with several health issues. It has been a joy to work with Jenn, communicating back and forth. She is a blessing, as she handles so much in the home office.

The word humility is on my mind this Christmas. I admire Mary's humility and willingness to serve God in such a unique way, even though as a young girl she was probably afraid and full of questions. We can marvel at Jesus's humility to come to earth as a mere baby leaving the glory of Heaven behind. Why is it that we as humans struggle to be humble? Why do we get defensive, trying to prove ourselves? This is the opposite of what God desires for us. To be in relationship with God we have to admit our need and recognize and accept Christ's death and resurrection in our place. Trusting involves believing that God knows best. The more we surrender and trust Him the more humble we will be! Then, all the more we will be able to worship God, our Heavenly Father for Who He is!

Let us come to Christmas humbly this year—trusting, accepting His will, and worshipping Him! Thank you again for your support and even more importantly, I appreciate your prayers. Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!

Cindy Lippincott