

Join us for our  
Meetings with  
Joe McCroskey

December 9th  
@ 10am & 6pm

December  
10th & 11th  
@ 7pm

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Christmas	1
Growing up Jesus	2
The Gift	3
A New Christmas for a New Man	4

## Christmas

Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year, it means different things to different people. Children love Christmas, the lights, the songs, the food, and oh yes the presents. But for a lot of adults Christmas is a lot of work, worry and expenses, some go in debt over Christmas. The true meaning of Christmas manages to get lost amid all the preparations. To better understand Christmas we must begin in the book of Genesis.

**Genesis 3:15**  
I will put hostility between you (the devil) and the woman and between your seed and HER SEED: it shall bruise your head and you shall bruise his heel.

All through the Bible the birth of a child was referred as the seed of man, but this would be the seed of the woman. Her seed would not come from a man, it would come from the Holy Spirit and she would be a virgin. The devil received the prophetic Word God gave him, so he was determined to kill the child of the woman. He did not know which woman or when, so he set out to kill everyone associated with the birth of her baby.

**Acts 7:52** Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? They have killed them which showed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom you have been now the betrayers and murderers.

The devil knew a man was coming to destroy him and his plans for mankind, but he didn't know the identity of the man. The devil does not



have access to revelation knowledge, he gets his revelations from us when the Lord gives them to us and we speak them. He heard the shepherds and wise men talking about a new born King. Men could hear the angels singing and so the devil could hear them, he knew this may be the seed of the woman. The devil stirred Herod and got him convinced that a King was born who would dethrone him. So, he ordered the slaughter of all the male kids two years and under. Have you noticed that the devil's solu-

tion for everything is death, just kill them all.

**Mathew 2:11** When the wise men came into the house they worshipped the child and they presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Jesus was a very rich child and he was only a few days old. The gifts of the wise men were very costly, they were given to kings and royalty. Who were these wise men? The wise men were the descendants of Abraham, when they became men they traveled east and dwelt there. Father Abraham told them that one day one of his descendants

would be born a King of the nation. There were not three wise men, Jewish history tells us that there were between ten and fifty wise men. They all brought gifts and their gifts were one of the three you gave to a new born king.

Notice our text, the wise men came into the house. Jesus was born in a barn because the hotels were full, after He was born they moved into a house.

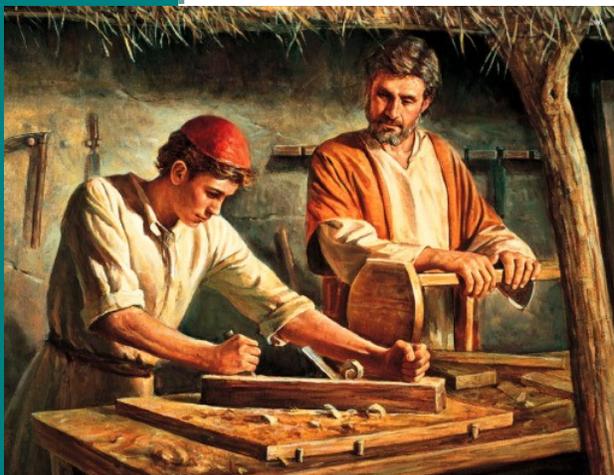
# Growing up Jesus

*Jesus had to find Himself in the Scriptures and then He had to submit to what they said about Him.*

Eight days after Jesus was born He was circumcised. He was a proper Jewish boy. He grew up in the town of Nazareth, by what we know He was just another kid in the neighborhood.

**Luke 2:52** And Jesus increased in wisdom and age and in favor with God and men.

Jesus was born a baby, He knew only what babies know. He had to grow in knowledge just like all babies. I heard a lady teach a Bible study one day and she made this connection: **God knows all things, so Jesus was embarrassed when Mary**



**changed His diaper!** This is ignorance gone to seed. Jesus was willing to strip Himself of all the attributes that made Him God in order to please the Father. Jesus read and studied the Old Testament writings of the prophets in order to meet and know Jehovah. Joseph taught Jesus to

be a carpenter but that wasn't His calling. He was an ordained minister. He was a rabbi.

**Luke 2:49** Do you not know that I must be about My Father's business?

Jesus was a rabbi under the law but he answered to God, not the Scribes and Pharisees. The Jewish leadership was corrupt, they didn't care anything about the people. When Jesus came along ministering to the people He made them look bad. They became jealous and began to look for things to accuse Him of so they could justify killing Him. We know very little about the early years of Jesus. Some have written books claiming to have "revelation" of His childhood, but unless they can show me in the Scriptures, I will not believe one word of it.

**Luke 3:22** The Holy Ghost descended in the shape of a dove upon Jesus, and a voice came from heaven saying, You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.

Jesus did nothing of significance until the Holy Spirit came to Him. Jesus could do nothing of Himself, He was just a man like you and I. The Bible calls Him Son of God, Son of man. The Bible refers to the whole human race as the sons of man, we are all the descendants of



Adam just like Jesus. But He was also the Son of God because the Holy Spirit was His Father. The Holy Spirit was the one who planted the seed in the virgin.

**Philippians 2:7** Jesus stripped Himself (of all privileges and dignity of being God) so as to assume the guise of a servant, in that He became like a man, born a human being.

Jesus was a man and remained a man until He was resurrected. He is now a man with a glorified body. He ministered for about three and a half years and during that time He was tired, hungry, thirsty and rejected by those He was sent to. Jesus would never have made it without the Holy Ghost, He could only do and say what the Father gave Him to do. Jesus had to find Himself in the Scriptures and then He had to submit to what they said about Him. Most times we must remind ourselves that Jesus is the best Christmas Gift we have or ever will receive. **Merry Christmas!**

# The Gift

Jesus was the greatest Gift any man could ever have. What makes it so awesome is that none of us have earned Him. Jesus is truly a Love Gift and love should be the motive for all gifts. Jesus was born in a barn and ever since that day He is "born-again" over and over in the barns of people's lives. He is not like a tie that goes out of style nor is He like a power tool that wears out. When a man receives the Gift of life, it remains with him forever and never wears out.

Holy Ghost apart from the power of the Holy Ghost. In essence, after our new birth we are offered the opportunity to receive the ministry of the Spirit.

**Acts 1:8 You will receive power after the Holy Ghost is come upon you.**

When you receive the Holy Spirit you do not get more "God" in your life, you get more manifestation of Him. We are mere men

**Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the Gospel and set men free...**

Jesus found Himself in the Bible, all of us have an obligation to find ourselves in the book. No man could persuade Jesus to do anything apart from His assignment. He knew who He was and what He was born to do. Do you know who you are? Do you know what you were born to do? Are you one of those people who wander through life not knowing what you're here for? I found in the Bible where I once was and where I am today.

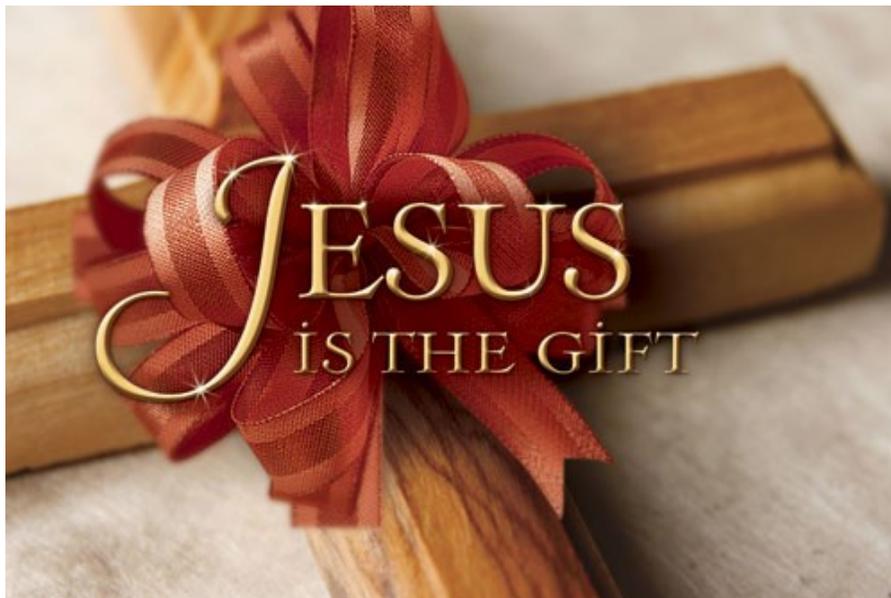
**John 3:18 He that believes not is condemned already because he had not believed in the Name.**

This was me in the Bible, I was scheduled for hell because I didn't believe in the Gift of life, the Lord Jesus.

**Romans 10:9 If you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart God raised Jesus from the dead you will be saved.**

This is my new place in the Bible, I am now in Christ because God said it and that settles it. God gives good gifts and they last forever.

*Jesus  
found  
Himself  
in the  
Bible,  
all  
of us  
have an  
obligation  
to find  
ourselves  
in the  
book.*



**Acts 2:38 Be baptized into the Name of Jesus (born-again) for the remission of sins and you will receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost.**

In order to stave off confusion, let me remind you of God's identity; He is Father, Son and Spirit. If you have Jesus in your heart you have the Father and the Spirit, let us not divide God. When a person is born-again, God in His fullness enters their life but they are not baptized in the Holy Ghost. A man can have the

just like Jesus until the Holy Ghost fills us, then we have the same gift and power that Jesus had. The Gift of the Holy Ghost reminds me everyday of the Gift of Jesus, the Gift of eternal life. I can't remember any of my Christmas gifts that people gave me, but there is no way I can forget Jesus. The world has a cliché, "you can't take it with you". That's not entirely true, we will take the gifts of the Spirit to heaven with us. Jesus came back to the synagogue in Nazareth where He grew up and He read out of the book of Isaiah.

# FOJ

Fortress of Joy Church  
720 Faw Rd  
Helena, MT 59602

Phone: 406-442-1819

E-mail: [support.fortress@aol.com](mailto:support.fortress@aol.com)

[FortressOfJoyChurch.com](http://FortressOfJoyChurch.com)

**Restoring the  
supernatural power  
of God back  
to the local church**

## A New Christmas for a New Man

When you're a kid Christmas is magical, the songs, the food, the family and most importantly the presents. When I was a kid we would go up to the mountains and chop down a tree. Then we would make a stand for it and break out all of our family ornaments. We did the same routine when we had kids, now that they're gone and we are older, we don't even put up a tree! Does this mean we lost the true meaning of Christmas? Absolutely not!

**1 Corinthians 13:11** When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became an adult, I put away childish things.

When I was a kid I worshipped Santa Claus, an

imaginary fairy. As an adult I focus and worship my Lord and Savior, Jesus the living God. The magic of Christmas was not tied to reality, it was a fairytale. Now as an adult I understand the reason for the season and it's not magical. It's miraculous.

Christmas never changes but people do and that's alright, maturity has a way of bringing up to reality. Now I understand that Jesus was not born so I could have presents. He was born so I could live with Him in heaven forever. **Merry Christmas!**

