



Winter Edition 2024
Issue 44

Theme Verses:
Luke 2: 8-11

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.” (NIV).

Upcoming Events

24 HOURS OF PRAYER

Watch & Pray

NOON TO NOON
12.31.24 - 01.01.25

An invitation to Jesus followers who desire to seek the Lord with humble and sincere hearts. With all praise and prayers to see His Kingdom Come and His Will be done in this hour of our great need.

Those planning to stay six hours or more please let us know.
Email: twentysfourprayer@gmail.com



THE GATHERING HOUSE
733 W GARLAND AVE, SPOKANE, WA

Merry
Christmas!



The Way of Business



Newsletter

“ ‘Tis the Season!”



What an interesting slogan that we often hear quoted during the holiday season: “ ‘Tis the season.” The origin of this phrase dates back to 1862 and stems from the Christmas carol Deck the Halls. This lyric fills in the answer as to how we are to be during the current season; the answer is “jolly.”

While being jolly is all well and good, I would submit that we should add in a new adaption of this slogan that reads, “ ‘Tis the Season to Recapture the Glory of Christmas.”

The word glory is fascinating, because of all the different thoughts that come to mind in people when asked what this word means. Glory is certainly something that we are to bring to the Lord by what we do in honoring Him, but just as important to know is the glory of the Lord stands for the unrestrained essence of God.

Two of the greatest stories of the Bible that demonstrate components of God’s glory come from Exodus 33:22 and 1 Kings 19:9-18, where, respectively, Moses and Elijah each has the Lord God and His glory pass by them. The essence of His glory was so great that neither men could look upon Him. What power and majesty!

The gift that Christmas stands for is well told in this edition’s theme verses, where the angel tells the world that a Savior has been born unto us, who is Christ the Lord. As important as this is, we too must realize that Christ Jesus represents the glory of the Lord. As Hebrews 1:3 states, “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being.” Just for a moment, consider all of the tremendous attributes that this stands for. Why this becomes so im-

portant is that we not only received the gift of a Savior but also the gift of His glory to share in as His people who have been called by the Lord (2 Thessalonians 2:14). This should represent to us an expansion of what Christmas is to mean to us and how His glory should strengthen our effectiveness as Christ’s Ambassadors.

Some great concluding thoughts on what the gift of God’s glory should mean to us, especially during this Christmas season is, first, that Jesus came to love us. Secondly, hope; Jesus is always with us. Finally is joy; Jesus comforts and encourages us.

So make sure to recapture the glory of Christmas by being attracted to the glory of our Lord. Chase Him with every step that you take. Stand in awe of his majesty. And always be thankful for His unfailing love and continued blessings He provides.

TWOB Helping to Build A New Organization of Faith-Driven Entrepreneurs

TWOB President Carl Tompkins was delighted to learn that a good number of Christian business owners were organizing in northern Idaho, wanting to become a formal association of members who’s focus would be to help one another be successful in their business, serve the needs of their communities, and be Christ centered in all that they do. Carl has been asked to provide consulting services to this

new association of businesses, focusing on helping the members build a sound foundation to their association structure, provide training on various best business practices, and help connect them with multiple ministries and service groups in the greater Spokane and Coeur d’ Alene areas. Having had a few meetings with the group, Carl believes that this association is off to a great start and will provide positive impact.

Let's Get Practical: What Have Been the Key Concepts and Discoveries in 2024

It was a most meaningful time interviewing TWOB President Carl Tompkins and learning what some of the most significant discoveries that he had during his work in 2024 along with key concepts that he taught in supporting various ministries, social services, and businesses. What I gained from Carl was most enlightening.

Right up front, Carl shared his pleasure in working with dozens of organizations this past year and how each meant well and worked hard in succeeding in their missions. This being said, he went on to discuss how much better our community would be served if more organizations worked together in unity. Specifically, he cited the occasion when he addressed fifty-one civic leaders at a luncheon stating that unity was an absolute must if the brokenness of community members was to be healed. "Absent unity, little if anything will be accomplished," was his quote. I then inquired, if unity is such a prerequisite, then why isn't it accomplished? His response was that unity requires strong leadership that causes people to stay the course. Secondly, any function requiring unity must be built around a well defined and written charter. Such a document causes participants to understand their mission, their role, as well as defining the scope of work to be accomplished. Moving onto the outcome of unity, I asked what good can be expected from people working as a team? Carl's first reply was that there is a better pooling and use of resources; essentially getting more done with less. A surprising component of resources, Carl went on to say, is better solutions based upon the diversity of attitudes, beliefs, and experiences held by the members of the coalition. Sadly, people fail to realize that the diversity of people is a strength rather than a reason to disband over differences. Carl stated a great quote on this subject: "No one person has the right answer, but everyone has the necessary input."

Having finished up on the topic of unity, I then moved to the question of what he has seen as a baseline necessity for organizations to succeed. He smiled and fired off with the response of the necessity of all organizations establishing clear vision, mission, and code of values statements. Absent these three foundational elements, organizations seem to spend a lot of time, effort, and money spinning their wheels, not getting anywhere. I asked for him to give a brief explanation of each. He explained that a vision statement is one sentence that defines the targeted outcome of an organizations existence. The mission statement defines how the organization will achieve the completion of their vision statement. Finally, the code of values is a listing of beliefs that regulate how the organization will operate; sort of a code of conduct. Carl concluded that much of his time this past year has been helping existing and new organizations complete this exercise.

In wrapping up my time with Carl, I asked what his own greatest discovery was for 2024. His answer was that through his twenty-six years working in the Spokane area, so many groups and organizations have stated that the Lord has something special in store for Spokane. Carl has been involved with numerous prayer summits where many in our community have gathered to pray for revival and healing of our city. Yet, little happens. Carl himself claimed to pray much and research why such a condition could exist. His discovery was 1 Chronicles 7: 14-15; verses that clearly define how we can be confident in God healing our land, by his own promise. Our four requirements are to humble ourselves, pray, seek God's face, and turn from our wicked ways. Carl has written and spoken much about this issue, namely that we can only conclude that we must do better meeting God's requirements if we expect God to hear our prayers and petitions.

Thanks to Carl for his 2024 key concepts and discoveries.

The Way of Business

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