

Saving Christmas from the Calendar

Caleb Cronin
Southside Baptist Church
December 29, 2019

Passage [READ IT]

Col. 1:15-20

Principle [KNOW IT]

1. Christ is the full image of God and we are to be like all parts of Him all the time.
2. Be intentional and sustainable.
3. Finish point #1.

Practice [DO IT]

Take your advent calendar and do each of the items throughout the year.

Daily Readings:

Sunday: Colossians 1

Monday: 1 John 4

Tuesday: John 14

Wednesday: John 15

Thursday: John 16

Friday: Acts 1

Saturday: Acts 2

Small Group Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic]

1. Do you have any lingering questions or thoughts of encouragement that are connected to this week's teaching or daily readings?
2. The Holy Spirit is sometimes called the "forgotten member of the Trinity." Do you think this is true? If so, why? Why would forgetting the Holy Spirit be a problem for Jesus followers?

At Christmas we celebrate the incarnation -- literally, God taking on flesh. While we most often use this word to refer to the birth of Jesus, it can also be used to describe the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the lives of men and women who have received Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Today we are going to look at a few passages that describe the Holy Spirit and our relationship to Him.

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

3. Read John 14:15-18 & 25-26
 - a. What can we learn about the Holy Spirit from these verses?
 - b. Where does Jesus say the Holy Spirit dwells?
 - c. When we consider what the Holy Spirit does and where He dwells, what should that mean for believers?
4. Read John 16:7-15
 - a. Why was it better for Jesus to leave?
 - b. In essence, Jesus said it was better for disciples to have the Holy Spirit than to have His physical presence of Jesus. Why is that statement significant for followers of Jesus 2,000 years later?
 - c. What else can we learn about the Holy Spirit from these verses?
5. Read Acts 1:1-9 & Acts 2:1-13
 - a. How does each mention of the Holy Spirit in these verses align with what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit in John 14 & 16?
 - b. Why is the Holy Spirit essential if we are to fulfill our mission in the world?
 - c. How does the coming of Jesus in Bethlehem compare with the coming of the Holy Spirit? If the incarnation in Bethlehem gave birth to Jesus, what was born with the incarnation in Jerusalem?
6. Read 2 Peter 1:3-4
 - a. What does it mean to "participate in the divine nature" with God? What makes that possible?
 - b. What would have to change in you, your family, our church, if we truly believed that we are called to be God's representatives on earth?
 - c. What are some practical ways we can better understand and relate to the Holy Spirit?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

7. What is your experience with the Holy Spirit and/or teachings about Him? How would your life be different if you were totally obedient to the Holy Spirit this week? What do you need to do about it? Talk about it, invite accountability, and take time to pray.