

December 2020

Church Life

- If you are a guest with us today, we want to **WELCOME** you! If you haven't done so already, we invite you to stop by our Guest Reception Center in the lobby at the scooter table following the service. Someone will greet you, answer any questions you may have, and give you a gift as a thank-you for worshipping with us today!
- **Bible Reading Plan** - This year, we are encouraging our entire church to read through the Bible in one year. Every weekend, we will be giving away a \$50 gift card to a person who read the readings for the prior week. So here's how this works, please visit the scooter table **BEFORE** service, write your name on a ticket (if you did the readings for the week), and drop it in the bin. Then, at the end of the service, Pastor Adam will pull out a name, and someone will go home with a gift card(all services). We want to encourage our church to be in their Bibles, happy reading!
- **Parents**, teens are having their **Christmas party** this Sunday from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at **Ebenezer Church**. The address is 5166 Ottogan St, Holland, MI 49423. Please have your teen bring a \$5.00 white elephant gift!
- Ladies, **Grace Wednesday Morning Study** is starting a new study on the book of James! This study begins on January 6th at 9:00 am in the sanctuary. No sign-up is necessary. Hope to see you there!
- Want to know what is going on at Grace? Weekly, we email out the E-news. The E-news is a sermon summary written by one of our amazing attenders. Please fill out your connection card if you would like to receive this!
- Please join us this **Saturday, December 19th**, at 9:00 am for the first-ever **Zeeland Prayer Drive**. Grace is partnering with 10 local churches for this prayer-filled event. Instead of a Prayer Walk, we will ask people to stay in their cars and drive to 10 different churches in the Zeeland area, praying as they go. Please meet at Community Reformed Church parking lot. (10376 Felch St, Zeeland, MI 49464). We hope to see you there!



The Gift – Gold

Matthew 2: 1-11, After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶ “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.” ⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” ⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

1 Timothy 6:15, which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

Romans 8: ¹Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. ³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Life Application

Take some time today and write Jesus a thank you note for being born and living the life he did. Take the notes you wrote today and in prior weeks and share them with close family or friends over the Christmas break.



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The Gift – Gold

Read: Matthew 2: 1-11

1. Over the last few weeks, we have been looking at both the practical application and the spiritual significance of these gifts. Throughout history gold has been known as a gift fit for a king. Have you considered the symbolism of the gifts before this sermon series? Does it shed new meaning on this part of the story for you?

Gold represents the Kingship of Jesus.

2. Pastor Adam made a fun point that we all know a lot of different “Kings,” but do we know the King of Kings? Do we really know Jesus? Discuss the importance of this question. How many times have you asked others this question?

READ: 1 Timothy 6:15

3. How did Jesus differ from what the Jewish nation was expecting? How did they respond?
4. Has anything really changed? Are we any different? Often, we think we don’t need God in this or that part of our lives. Did you realize that means you are opposing God? Whether you admit it or not, you are opposing Jesus as King with the mindset, "I'm going to do this part of life my way, this is opposing God. Discuss this.
5. Sometimes we dismiss God, How?
6. The Wisemen chose a different path. What do we know about their attitude regarding an unexpected King?
7. They took the posture of surrender, to show their reverence. They bowed down and they worshiped him. What is your response? Are there parts of your life where you dismiss Jesus?
8. Would you honestly rather have Jesus’ plan for your life, more than your plan for your life? Is He honestly your greatest passion?

A Quote from Pastor Adam... If you have been opposing him or dismissing him let me tell you about my King. He is not some distant, angry, uninvolved judge waiting for you to mess up. He is not the man upstairs. He is not the big guy in the sky. Jesus is not your homeboy. He is not your eight-pound, six-ounce newborn baby Jesus. He is the righteous King of kings; he is the Lord of all lords! Who is this King that gave his life for us? Jesus according to scripture. This King heals the sick. He opens blind eyes. He heals deaf ears. He strengthens the weak. He delivers the captive. He restores those who are broken and hurting. He is a shelter in your time of trouble. He is a light when your world is dark. He is the Prince of Peace. He is the Lamb of God. The Alpha and the Omega. The beginning and End. The resurrection and life! He is our King! Death could not defeat him. The grave could not hold him. THIS is my KING!

9. Read the quote from Pastor Adam above. Take some time and slowly walk through this quote.
10. Do you take time to rest and really look at who Jesus was, is, and will always be?
11. Do you think most of us need to take a look at Jesus with fresh eyes? What stops us?

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