

PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Thus Saith the Lord

A SEASON

By Jeff Sweeten

Enter the season wherein folks transform into the “Christians” they should have been all year but are just now showing up to the party. You know, kindness, charity, “peace, goodwill toward men” (Luke 2:14). Many forego the “pleasures of sin for a season” (Hebrews 11:25) and focus on someone besides themselves. The result: an entire community becomes friendlier and more compassionate, a welcome reprieve from the “dog eat dog world” that defines the norm. It’s not so unusual that a baby’s birth could do this; I’m amazed at how quickly grown adults, speaking to babies, lose completely their command of the English language. No, what is astounding is that it is Jesus’ **birth** that causes this beautiful metamorphosis.

Not everyone is on board, of course. From snake-oil salesmen to credit card scammers, we still have a contingency that exhibits less than Christian kindness during this season. It is to be expected that some leopards just won’t change their spots (Jeremiah 13:23) and noteworthy that we never hear of that evil, indulgent governor, Felix, arriving at a soul-cleansing “convenient season” (Acts 24:25). But, most welcome a time of neighborly mercy and grace toward one’s fellow man. It’s just... nice.

Now, don’t misconstrue my conundrum here. Sure, the fact that Jesus was born was a boon of epic proportions for humanity. Without His entry into this world of sin, we would have absolutely no hope (Ephesians 2:12). But, being a baby in a manger was not His crowning achievement, even factoring in His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23). It was His **resurrection** that changed our plight! Because Christ was born and died (predictably human, Hebrews 9:27) isn’t the key. He was resurrected never to die again! This was never done before: Jesus overcame death. Whereas one could argue that except he was born, He could not have died and, correspondingly, could not have been resurrected, is a valid point, but which event ought to change you and me? The Messiah’s birth only has meaning when the one leads to the other.

Thus, when one is lowered into the watery grave of baptism, one dies to sin, buries a dead sinner and – by faith in the resurrection of Christ – is **then** raised up to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:1-14), born again (John 3:3-5). Christianity is not a season; it’s eternal life.

JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Bible Study

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130