

<div><div><div>Schedule Of Services</div><div>Sunday</div><div>Bible Study 9:45 A.M.</div><div>Worship 10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.</div><div>Wednesday Bible study 7:00 P.M.</div></div><div><div>Website</div><div>Beaconcofc.com</div></div></div> <div><div><div>Preacher</div><div>Chase Green</div><div>318-608-7418</div></div><div><div>Elders</div><div>Bill Schooley 318-396-7296</div><div>Tim Green 318-547-4026</div></div></div>	<div>BEACON CHURCH OF CHRIST</div> <div>2326 JONESBORO ROAD</div> <div>MAIL: P.O. BOX 3057</div> <div>WEST MONROE, LA 71294</div> <div><div>WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED</div><div><div>1. Hear the Gospel (Jn. 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17).</div><div>2. Believe (Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8; Heb. 11:6).</div><div>3. Repent (Lk. 13:3; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 17:30).</div><div>4. Confess Christ (Matt. 10:32, 33).</div><div>5. Be baptized (immersed) (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).</div><div>6. Continue faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).</div></div></div> <div><div>Mailing Address</div><div>PLACE STAMP HERE</div></div>
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By the Numbers:

Week of 12/15/19

Contribution – \$2158

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Classes – 25

Sunday Worship * – 42

Wednesday Night – 43

*Total for the day

WORKS SUPPORTED:

Ronnie Gootam - India

Marlon Retana - Panama

Brad Harrub - Focus Press

The Gospel of Christ TV Program

Sundays:

6:30am - Ch. 8.2 (CW) 7:00am - Ch. 39.1

Listen to our radio station!

FM 102.5 KCXB-LP - The Beacon of Truth

Available online 24/7

at beaconcofc.com

Sermon Spotlight:

AM — Grace and Truth

1. By Whom did the ultimate fulfillment of grace and truth come?

2. Can either be excluded from the other?

PM — Pictures of Contentment

1. Is society today content?

2. What can we do to be more content?

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

December 22, 2019

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17

The Virgin Birth of Christ, and Why it Matters

Chase Green

The birth of Jesus Christ is always on a lot of minds this time of year (even though there is no Biblical or true historical basis for claiming December 25th as the date of Christ’s birth, by the way — this is merely a tradition started in the 3rd century, long after Christ was born). But I digress. Certainly, as many people ARE thinking about Christ’s birth, I want to discuss the fact that Christ was born of a virgin, and why it matters.

The virgin birth of Christ was prophesied in Isaiah 7:14: “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” One would think that all believers in Christ would take this verse at face value, but actually many theologically liberal denominationalists reject this plain truth. In fact, the RSV translation changes the verse to this — “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (emphasis mine throughout, TCG).

This obvious change in meaning caused quite a stir when the RSV came out in 1952, and rightfully so! Thankfully, many people rejected this erroneous translation, but sadly, many others accepted it. Why is it so important for us to get this translation right? Does it matter whether or not we take Isaiah 7:14 to mean “virgin,” or just a “young woman?” The answer is, yes, it does matter very much! But why? Well, let me tell you.

First of all, it is true that the Hebrew word found in Isaiah 7:14 can be translated as either “virgin,” or “young maiden.” Thus, *’almâh* might be rendered either way, were it not for one crucial detail — the CONTEXT! A very basic rule for translation is that the translators must not only look at possible meanings of words, but also the context in which they appear! Quite simply, the prophetic context of Isaiah 7:14 DEMANDS that the word *’almah* be translated as “virgin.” The reason is simple — because the New Testament writers clearly explain that Jesus Christ’s birth was in fulfillment of the prophecy in Isaiah 7:14, and that Mary was a virgin at the time of Jesus’ conception!

Notice the Matthew account: “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost” ... (An angel appears to Joseph and explains) “that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost” (Mat. 1:18, 20). Furthermore, this is directly tied to the prophecy in Isaiah: “Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us” (Mat. 1:22-23). This passage concludes by saying that Joseph “knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS” (Mat. 1:25). The Matthew text is plainly clear that Jesus’ mother Mary was a virgin at the time of His conception, and remained that way until (cntd. on pg. 2)

NEWS AND NOTES
TO OUR GUESTS—A WARM WELCOME

Thank you for coming today and please come back soon and often. If you have questions about the church of Christ, what is taught here, or the way we do anything please feel free to ask. Please fill out the Guest Register on the table in the foyer so we may have a record of your visit.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Margie Tippen, Regina Simmons, Joy Skipper, Kaitlyn Wilson, Tim Green, Debbie Grice, Virginia Wainwright, Stetson Ortega, Bettie Young, Wendy Traweek, Dewey Young (recovering from surgery last Thursday), Marcia Green, Martin Hattaway, Scarlet Schooley (recovering from surgery last Thursday), Judy May (surgery on her foot tomorrow)

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Please note that the fellowship meal scheduled for today has been cancelled.
- Several have expressed interest in a game night for New Years Eve (Tuesday, Dec. 31). Please let Chase know if you would like to attend!
- Youth & Young Adults: If you would like to help host an event in the future, please let Chase know!
- Monthly Fellowship Meal: 4th Sunday each month unless otherwise noted.

(Continued from page 1)

after Jesus was born!

The context of the Luke account is even more revealing. As the angel Gabriel appears unto Mary herself, he informs her that she will conceive and bring forth a son Whom she will call Jesus (Luke 1:26ff). It is in Mary’s response to Gabriel that there can be no doubt that Mary was in fact a virgin: “Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” (Luke 1:34). It is obvious that Mary had never participated in the act that normally leads to conception with ANY man! She was a virgin! The angel goes on to explain to Mary that the Holy Spirit would give her the child, and that if her cousin Elizabeth, being old and barren, could conceive a child, then certainly the Lord could give Mary a child too! The angel then says, “For with God nothing shall be impossible” (Luke 1:37).

Quite frankly, when the RSV and modernists (a.k.a. LIBERAL theologians) deny that *‘almah* should be translated “virgin” in Isaiah 7:14, they are denying the fulfillment of it in Matthew chapter 1 and Luke chapter 1! In so doing, they are denying the miraculous, as well as the power of the Holy Spirit to perform these things, the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy, and ultimately, denying the accuracy of the Bible altogether.

That is how modernists attacked the inerrancy of the Bible in the late 1800s, and they continue their attack today. But we as Christians know better. We need to be aware of these attacks on the Scriptures so that we can combat them when we come across them, and warn others as well of the disastrous implications of getting just one word wrong in translating the Scriptures, as the RSV sadly did when it came out in 1952.

With love, Chase

Bible Fools

Dave Leonard

The Bible clearly teaches that it is a sin to refer to one as a fool in a contemptible manner (Mat. 5:32). The Bible, also, teaches that it is proper to refer to one who is not wise as foolish or a fool (1 Cor. 3:19-20). It would be bad enough to be called a fool by another human, but even more so by God! Just who is a fool according to God?

1. The one who will not listen to advice - “Fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Pro. 1:7).
2. The one who pays no attention to warning - “A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident” (Pro. 14:16).
3. One who persists in evil - “As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly” (Pro. 26:11).
4. One who believes everything he hears - “The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going” (Pro. 14:15).
5. The one who mocks at sin - “Fools make a mock at sin” (Pro. 14:9).
6. The one who gets mad easily - “A fool’s wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame” (Pro. 12:16).
7. Those who talk too much - “the lips of a fool will swallow up himself. The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness: and the end of his talk is mischievous madness. A fool also is full of words” (Ecc. 10:12-14).
8. The one who drinks alcoholic beverages - “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise” (Pro. 20:1).
9. The one who says there is no God - “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God” (Psa. 14:1).
10. The one who does not prepare for the judgment (Mat. 25). The one who is not prepared is like a man trying to sleep on a bed too short with cover too narrow (Isa. 28:20). Unprepared means unacceptable before God!

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE

“For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”
Acts 20:27