



First Baptist Church

November 2018/Monthly Newsletter

"To Know Him and Make Him Known"

Pastor's Paragraph

The Mystery of Jesus

In our study of Christology, I have realized the truth of 1 Timothy 3:16, "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh..." The incarnation of our Savior is indeed a mystery. The hypostatic union is difficult to imagine. We know that Jesus is both God and Man, but what does that mean? How did that actually work? How did our Eternal and Infinite God take on finite humanity without altering His deity? These theological questions also lead to some practical implications. As God, Jesus possessed all knowledge, yet as a man, he had limited knowledge. He learned. When did Jesus become aware of His true identity? Baby Jesus had to learn how to walk and talk. So, when did Jesus know that he was the Son of God? I'm not sure if there is a definite answer to that question. You can make a strong case that Jesus knew the truth before His bar-mitzvah at 12 years old. It was then that he reminded His mother, "Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" (Luke 2:49) By that time, He knew who His heavenly Father was. But how long had He known that? It remains unclear. Even as an adult during His public ministry, Jesus confessed that He did not have knowledge of the precise day of His return. "... Of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only." (Matthew 24:36) As God, Jesus possesses all knowledge, but as man, he chose not to use all of His infinite knowledge. When did Jesus learn what day He would return? I don't know, but I'm sure He knows exactly what day it is now!

There is another mystery that stems from the hypostatic union. It involves the temptation of Christ. There is a theological debate about whether it was hypothetically possible for Jesus to have sinned. Some theologians believe in the impeccability of Christ: that as God, He could not sin. Other theologians believe in the peccability of Christ: that as man, he could have yielded to temptation. All theologians agree (at least the ones that believe the Bible!) that Jesus never sinned. He is our perfect, Holy Savior. The debate is whether He could have sinned hypothetically. To be honest, both sides have compelling arguments. And, although I definitely lean toward one side of the argument, I am not 100% certain which is correct. Those who argue for the peccability of Jesus quote from Hebrews 4:5, that Jesus "was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin." The argument is that in order for Jesus to be tempted as we are, he had to overcome the very real possibility of yielding to temptation. That is what we have to do every day! However, those who argue for the impeccability of Jesus quote from Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." The argument is that the divine attribute of impeccability renders it impossible for Jesus to have sinned. As God, He cannot change. He cannot sin. I don't think it makes a whole lot of difference which theory is true, so I will let you decide which one makes the most sense!

And perhaps the most obvious mystery of the hypostatic union occurred in the garden of Gethsemane. There was a struggle between the Divine nature and the Human nature of Christ. As God, he was perfectly submitted to the will of God. As man, he did not desire to endure such suffering. I don't think we will ever understand the depth of what happened in that garden. Great is the mystery of godliness! ~Pastor



NOVEMBER 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Trustees 8AM
4 Communion 	5	6 Election Day  Deacons 7PM	7 AWANA Topsy-Turvy Night 	8	9 Hungry Soul Soup House Begins 	10 Fall Fixin's 5:30 p.m.
11 	12	13	14 AWANA 6:30-8PM	15	16	17
18 5:30 PM Annual Harvest Dinner 	19	20	21 No AWANA	22 	23	24 
25	26	27	28 AWANA 6:30-8PM	29	30	

Annual Harvest Dinner

Join us for our Thanksgiving Dinner Sunday, November 18th, 5:30 PM
~Turkey, Potatoes, and Stuffing will be provided~ (Bring sides & desserts.)



WCBC Fall Fixin's: We will host this event in the Fellowship Center at 5:30 PM., Nov. 3rd.

December Christmas Events

Sunday, Dec. 9- SS Program (AM)
Christmas Caroling (PM)

Sunday, Dec. 16- Cantata (AM)
Christmas Dinner Potluck (PM)

Monday, Dec. 24th- Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service (PM)



Reminder: Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 3rd!



We are needing to re-stock our AWANA Store for our hard-working clubbers! The next store night is just before Christmas on Wednesday, December 19th. Please place your donations in the box provided, and we thank you in advance for your help with this ministry!

September Finances

Balance Forward 9/1/2018

Deacon's Fund	\$351.04
Designated Fund	\$1,545.71
General Fund	\$25,642.92
Checking Account	\$27,539.67
September Income	\$17,598.25
September Expenses	\$19,744.93
Net Decrease	(\$2,146.68)

Balance 9/30/2018

Deacon's Fund	\$351.04
Designated Fund	\$1,310.71
General Fund	\$23,731.24
Checking Account	\$25,392.99