

**WORD #4—TRUTH
CAN YOU HANDLE
THE TRUTH, NO
MATTER WHAT?**



WOW! So many of you commented about the lesson on **HONOR** after class on Sunday, I'm a little ashamed of myself. I just didn't think it was a timely lesson—especially in light of the make-up of our class—and yet God's timing is **PERFECT**. Why am I surprised? Remember the verse in **ISAIAH 55:8** where God reminds us that our ways are not His ways, and His thoughts are not our thoughts. In thinking about our third word, **HONOR**, it was clearly a lesson about honoring our parents and why. This was the first commandment with a promise—so that it will be **WELL** with you and so that you will **LIVE LONG**. Did you laugh at our opening story about the policeman stopping the speeding driver who lied and tricked the officer? Is that honor and respect? **NOT!** I pray that you will memorize the memory verse I handed out from **EXODUS 20:12** and allow the Holy Spirit to work in your heart as to the "what and how". Think about the elderly grandfather and how his grown children treated him in the Grimm's Fairy Tale story we talked about. Remember the statement made by the little boy in the fairy tale, "I'm making a trough to feed you and Mama out of when I get big?" Is that the example we're setting? Is that the way we are showing honor? It's about **HONOR**—no matter what!

OUR PRAYERS & PRAISES

- KATHY—PRAISE FOR NEW CAR
- KENDRA—FATHER (CANCER); HER HEALTH; SELL HOUSE
- TARA—MRI RESULTS SHOW PHYS THERAPY WILL HELP
- JEREMY—HIP SURGERY (12/28) FROM PREVIOUS BREAK
- PETE—HEART IN RHYTHM; KAREN'S MOM DOING WELL
- KEN, JR—UNSPOKEN PRAYER (KEN & ANN'S SON)
- KATHY—SON & DGHT LOST JOBS THIS WEEK, 2 CHILDREN
- BOB—UNSPOKEN PRAYER
- RHONDA—NO BETTER (BACK); SPINAL CORD STIMULATION
- JOE & TERRY—UNSPOKEN REQUESTS
- MICHAEL—GRADUATED; TRAVEL TO FLA
- WALT—HELP WITH NEW PART-TIME JOB
- OLENA—PRAY FOR FAMILY IN UKRAINE
- BROWN FAMILY—LIVING IN MOTOR HOME
- ANN—CATARACT SURGERY WENT WELL-TUE
- KAREN'S MOM—OUT OF HOSPITAL (A-FIB)
- DEAN—PRAISE, CELLULITIS BETTER/HEALING
- ADAM—MARRIAGE (HEARING); WIFE MOVING
- MICHAEL—BACK PAIN, INJECTION/PT HELPED
- NANCY—CLOT IN LIVER (MUSC); TRANSPLANT

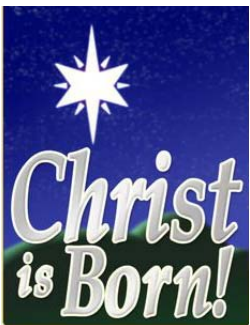
SO, WHAT ARE YOU GIVING THIS CHRISTMAS?

With **CHRISTMAS** only a few days away, I mentioned that next Sunday I will be doing a special Christmas lesson—instead of the next word from Dr. MacDonald's study. I'll publish the regular lesson on our website—so you won't get behind—but as I mentioned last week, "We Need A Little Christmas...right this very minute!" We will be studying what Mary gave God for that first Christmas. We know what God gave Mary, but think about the other side. If you want to read ahead, read **LUKE 1: 26-2:20**. As many of our members will be travelling this Sunday, I'll also post this special lesson right along with the regular one. See you Sunday!

DO YOU EVER WONDER? I sometimes think that wonder is like an endangered species – we don't have enough of it and are in danger of losing it altogether. You lose wonder when you try and explain everything. Wonder is wasted in seminars, and "how-to" books, and manuals for living, and steps towards this and that. Wonder is what takes over after you have explained all you can explain and answered all you can answer. In my experience, we have tried to answer too much. Wonder is what finite, sinful creatures do when we encounter the holy. Wonder is what Mary did after an angel told her she was going to conceive of God and bear the savior of the world. Wonder is what shepherds do after they have seen a host of angelic creatures lighting up the heavens and singing Glory to God. Wonder is what great and wealthy kings do when they enter the presence of a child whose glory and significance was foretold in the stars.

Wonder is what disciples do when in the presence of one who can command the wind and the waves, and they instantly obey. Wonder is what you do when you realize that what Jesus did was all so that He might love people as broken and as sinful as you and I. And all of this can come down to twinkling lights and magical music at Christmastime.

Dean



IT'S ALL ABOUT HIM...NOT YOU!

