

Welcome to Rosedale

Sunday December 25, 2016

Welcome & Announcements

Musical Praise & Worship

Advent Candle..... Linda Gibbs

Junior Church Presentation

Family Prayer

Scripture Galatians 4:4-5

Message..... Pastor John Bellingham

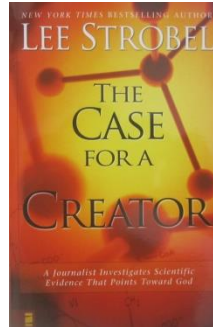
THE MARVEL OF CHRISTMAS

Benediction

“When God showed up in Jesus Christ, he was not a pillar of fire, nor a tornado, but a baby. There is nothing like a baby. Even young children have their own agenda and will run from you. But the little babies can be picked up, hugged, kissed, and they’re open to it, they cling to you. Why would God come this time in the form of a baby, rather than a firestorm or whirlwind? Because this time he has come not to bring judgment but to bear it, to pay the penalty for our sins, to take away the barrier between humanity and God, so we can be together. Jesus is God *with us*.”

- Timothy Keller (*Hidden Christmas*)

Featured in the Rosedale Library:



The Case for A Creator: Join author Lee Strobel as he re-examines the theories that once led him away from God. You’ll encounter the mind-stretching discoveries from cellular biology, DNA research, astronomy and physics that present astonishing evidence.

Families of the Week

Please remember to pray for and to encourage the following people this week

<u>Monday</u>	Ynema, Ron & Willie
<u>Tuesday</u>	Arnold, Nelson & Heather Grace, Michael, Elizabeth
<u>Wednesday</u>	Arthurs, Gary & Bonnie
<u>Thursday</u>	Bellingham, John & Leslie Daniel, Christina, Carey
<u>Friday</u>	Bertin, Jeanne
<u>Saturday</u>	Blanchard, Terry & Pam

ROSEDALE BAPTIST CHURCH



Reaching up....

Reaching in....

Reaching out...

11 Rosedale Place
Welland, ON L3B 1J2
905-735-0788
Pastor: John C. Bellingham

www.rosedalebaptistwelland.com

This Week at Rosedale

Tuesday: Men's Bible Study – 9:30 am
Wednesday: Prayer Meeting – 7:00 pm
Saturday: Ladies' Bible Study – 8:00 am
Sunday: Christian Foundations – 9:30 am
Corporate Worship – 10:30 am

Christmas Lunch: If you do not have plans for Christmas Day, we would invite you to stay for a turkey lunch after the service this morning.

Rosedale Youth Ministry: Beginning on January 18th we will be re-launching a weekly youth program for ages 10 and up. This group will be co- led by Nick Sarides and Linda Gibbs and will meet every Friday evening at 7pm. If you'd like more information please speak with either Nick or Linda.

Open Arms Food Collection: For the month of December we a be collecting dry pasta for the ministry of Open Arms. All non-perishable food donations can be placed in the bin located in the front foyer.

The Marvel of Christmas

Galatians 4:4-5

I. The Marvel of God's Timing

- 1) A Moment Chosen by God
 - a. Human history has been gradually unfolding according to God's sovereign, pre-ordained plan
 - b. The coming of Jesus was prophesied thousands of years before it actually happened (cf. Genesis 3:15, 12:1-3; 1 Peter 1:10-12)
- 2) The Right Moment in World History
 - a. Politically – Roman peace and infrastructure facilitated the missionary journeys of Paul and the other Apostles
 - b. Culturally – common Greek language across the Empire facilitated communication of the Gospel to both Jews and Gentiles
 - c. Religiously
 - i. Israel's hopes had been crushed, and her political 'saviours' defeated
 - ii. The Law had worked its purpose of revealing humanity's sin and man's total inability to save himself (Romans 3:19-20, 8:3-4)

Application: The coming of Jesus the Messiah seems agonizingly slow from a human perspective, but in God's sovereign plan He entered this broken world at exactly the right moment. Marvel this Christmas at the perfection of God's timing

II. The Marvel of God's Son

- 1) Jesus is Fully God
 - a. The Son existed with the Father from all eternity as a Person of the Holy Trinity – He did not begin to exist at Christmas!
 - b. *"Here is something marvelous: the Son of God descended from heaven in such a way that, without leaving heaven, he willed to be born in the virgin's womb, to go about the earth, and to*

hang upon the cross; yet he continually filled the world as he had done from the beginning!"

- John Calvin (*Institutes* II.13.4)

- 2) Jesus is Fully Human
 - a. 'Born of a woman'
 - i. Emphasis on Jesus' full humanity
 - ii. Fulfillment of God's promise – Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14
 - b. 'Born under the law'
 - i. Jesus was born under the Ceremonial and Civil Law of the Mosaic Covenant
 - ii. Jesus was born under the Moral Law

Application: The fact that the pre-existent Son of God took on humanity and entered into the world He created is the greatest mystery imaginable. Marvel this Christmas at the incarnation of Jesus Christ. He is Emmanuel - God with us!

III. The Marvel of God's Purpose

- 1) Redemption
 - a. 'Redemption' - to purchase out of slavery
 - b. Jesus came to free God's people from their slavery to sin
 - i. He obeyed the righteous demands of God's Moral Law which we are unable to do
 - ii. He fulfilled the Ceremonial Law and brought the types and shadows to completion
 - iii. He paid the death penalty for all of our law-breaking, and satisfied divine justice
- 2) Adoption
 - a. God's eternal purpose was not only to free us from slavery, but to make us His children
 - b. 'Adoption as sons' – believers united to Jesus Christ receive the full rights of inheritance

Application: To understand the beauty of Christmas you must first understand the ugliness of sin. Marvel this Christmas at God's gracious purpose to redeem you from sin and to adopt you into his family.