

MARINERS CHURCH



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A Savior for You

12.11.22

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. And all went to be registered, each to his own town... Luke 2:1-20

The Love of God shows that No One is Too Far from God

There were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock at night. Luke 2:8

By grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. John 3:16, 17

JUSTIFIED: To be justified means to be made "Just if I'd" never sinned.

Whoever believes in Him is not condemned. John 3:18

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Romans 3:23

Whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. John 3:18-20

The Message of Christmas is There's Always Hope

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people". Luke 2:10

The Good news is:

You matter to God.

Jesus is not God's Plan B. Galatians 4:4

You can be Forgiven.

Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11

For your LifeGroup and growth time.

When you were a child what did Christmas mean to you? What does Christmas mean to you now? At what point in your life did the meaning of Christmas change or become redefined?

The angel's announcement first came to the outcast shepherds, why do you think that is significant? If no one is too far from God what boundaries are put on who can find freedom from sin?

Read Ephesians 2:8, 9 and Romans 3:23. How did Curt break down the word "justified" in today's message? In what ways does that impact you?

Being comfortable in sin and fearing our own exposure are 2 roadblocks to receiving God's forgiveness (see John 3:19, 20). How did these roadblocks trip you up before you trusted in Jesus for salvation?

The announcement from the angel to the shepherds was called "good news". The good news of Christmas is that you matter to God, Jesus is not Plan B and you can be forgiven. When you think about these things how are you challenged and encouraged?

Do you remember a time in your life when you've asked God for forgiveness and trusted in Jesus for new life? Can you recall a day when you came to the end of yourself and fully gave yourself to God in faith? When was that, how did it happen, what steps have you taken to grow in your faith since that day?

If you haven't trusted in Jesus, yet, or asked God for forgiveness what's stopping you from doing so? Would you consider asking God for a new start now?

Consider the following prayer as a way to ask God for a new beginning today: God, thank You for Christmas. Thank You that You loved me enough to send Your Son so I can be forgiven. I can't do life on my own. I'll never be good enough. I need the gift of Your grace and forgiveness now. Thank you, Jesus, for being born and dying for my forgiveness. I trust in You now. Amen.

If you have trusted in Jesus but know that you've been unfaithful in that commitment, are you ready to confess that to God and return to following Him today? Please consider the following prayer as a vow to coming back: God, I confess I have walked away from You and lived life on my own terms. I repent now and chose to live my life for You, again. Thank You that You welcome people like me back with no strings attached. In Jesus' name. Amen.

If you've prayed one of these prayers tell somebody. Let your LifeGroup know that you've made a decision to trust in Jesus (again) today!

End your study together by praying for each other. If you'd like to grow in your faith and connect with others, LifeGroups are a great place for you. For more information, drop us your name and we'll get back to you (emma@marinerscc.org)