



BEHIND the SCENES

Ministering To And Through America's Youth

December 2020



Jim and Robyn Cicchese

Nothing Has Changed

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." -Hebrews 13:8

It has been a year that most people would probably rather forget. Whether it be Covid, the politics, the economy, or the dangers of a world under stress, you may well be wishing you could just skip to next year.

Bad news: It has nothing to do with the number on the calendar. January 1 will not bring magical change that will make it all better.

Good news: It has everything to do with the calendar, and the event that caused us to start numbering years so that we arrived at 2020. That is to say, the Advent of Jesus Christ is the center of the calendar, and the unchanging rock of our real hope. It is His eternal nature that Hebrews calls an "anchor for the soul, firm and secure..."

There are so many corollaries to the above verse, that I can't even list them all, but let me name a few.

First, because Jesus is the same, and Jesus is God, that means God has not changed. God will not be infected with Coronavirus. He is not surprised by the politics or anger in our world. The rioting did not burn His businesses down. The increased murder rate in Minneapolis is not putting Him in danger. The outcome of the election will not be a surprise to Him – even if the official results require an extra four or five weeks. The lockdowns will not make God declare bankruptcy. Events in this world seem like catastrophic, life-altering incidents. They are actually temporary, minor, and trivial circumstances when compared to the eternity that God is arranging for us.

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Second, because God has not changed, sin has not changed. As Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito recently pointed out, we live in a country that is increasingly disfavoring our Constitutional right to freedom of religion. What is being substituted in its place is an unwritten but imagined constitutional right that protects sexual behavior and the right of others not to be offended by people speaking against their lifestyles. But God is the very definition of righteousness and sin. Sin is sin because it does not correspond with the character of God. Therefore, what was sin 5,000 years ago is still sin. That which was spoken against by the prophets and by the Apostles is still wrong, even if our world tells us we have evolved into more civilized understanding of sin. Sin has not changed.

Third, because God has not changed, righteousness has not changed. It is still a standard that is measured by absolute agreement with the character and nature of God. It is still beyond our human ability to reach that perfection – as it has always been beyond our ability. But the righteousness of God can be achieved by confessing our sins, by acknowledging the absolute right that God has to define sin, and by turning our lives over voluntarily to the control of the Holy Spirit. This doesn't guarantee that we will obtain our own righteousness, it simply allows God to count Christ's righteousness as if it were ours! It is a place of absolute righteousness because God has said so, not because we are perfect.

So as we approach the Advent season, don't let the Virus claim victory by causing you to neglect the immense joy that can belong to any person who realizes that Jesus Christ is the same now as He was when He walked on earth. And we have His promise that nothing the future can bring will change that, either.

Merry Christmas!

Jim Cicchese

What's Happening.....This Month at TFC



Finishing Stones Update

You can help us reach this goal in 2020!

We have been praying for years that God would provide the funds to retire our ministry mortgage by the end of 2020. Well, that time is here and we still have a little way to go. As of November 1, 2020 the balance was \$99,850.91. We have seen God do many amazing things since we built our ministry center with a loan amount of over \$550,000 in 2006. It would be a huge blessing to remove these payments and be able to focus funds toward direct ministry with youth. **Would you consider a special donation toward retiring the mortgage on Teens For Christ's Ministry Center?**



For online donations:
start at www.teens4christ.com.
Click on Donate, and select
"Finishing Stones"
OR to avoid processing fees:

Mail a check:
Teens For Christ
PO Box 920
Hudson, WI 54016
(write Finishing Stones in the memo)

Despite the challenges of the virus that we all face this year, God is in control and has been working through TFC. Thank you for the role you play in this ministry. Your continued prayers and financial support are a blessing. Together we are encouraging teens and bringing the Gospel to a lost and hurting generation.

AmazonSmile :)

Are you planning on doing any of your holiday shopping on Amazon? If so, by shopping at AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), Amazon will donate 0.05% of your purchase amount toward the ministry/non-profit of your choice— which could include Teens For Christ!

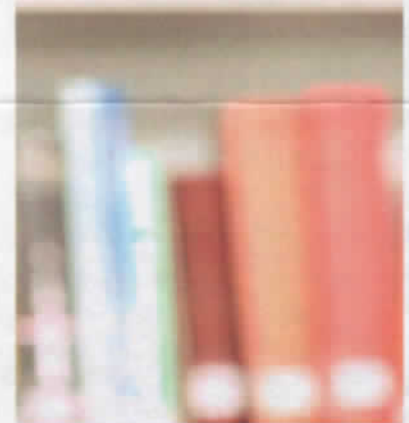
By simply starting your Amazon shopping at smile.amazon.com instead of amazon.com, you can be supporting Teens For Christ this holiday season. You shop as you normally would on the site, at no extra cost to you. Just go to Your Account, select Change Your Charity, and choose Teens For Christ from the list of nonprofits. It may not seem like a lot, but every little bit counts, and we appreciate it!



Merry Christmas!

We at Teens For Christ wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, filled with the grace and truth only Jesus Christ can bring!

"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth." -John 1:14



UPCOMING EVENTS

———— DECEMBER ————
Quiz Meet.....5th

LOOKING AHEAD...
———— JANUARY ————
Quiz Meet.....2nd

CONTACT US!

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