



# **Christian Faith Fellowship**

**- We are not a perfect church  
-We are not a perfect people  
-We are here because we know we need  
God's help and He has provided this help  
through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

**CFF exists to Know Christ and to make Him  
Known!**

## Advent

**Week 1 = Hope      Week 2 = Peace**

**Week 3 = Joy      Week 4 = Love**

**On Christmas we celebrate CHRIST**

- Christmas is the celebration of the fulfillment of God's promise – that He would send a Savior for ALL HUMANITY!
- God's Love made flesh as 1 of us!

**John 1** 1 In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He existed in the beginning with God. 3 God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. 4 The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

10 He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. 11 He came to his own

people, and even they rejected him. 12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. 13 They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

- The reason He came was to offer the opportunity for a second birth that comes from God!!
- That we would no longer live by the flesh for the flesh but to be born of God and to live for God!

- Prior to our saying Yes to Jesus we lived for ourselves – when we said Yes to Jesus we then began a life of surrender to God being in charge.
- He didn't become flesh and defeat sin for us to simply let us go on living our lives the same way we always had...
- He came to change us and give us life - a life we never had before – a life we could not have on our own!

**John 10** 1 “I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! 2 But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. 5 They won’t follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don’t know his voice.”

- As Jesus explains His place in our life He used a real life application story so the people would understand His place and what it meant to have a relationship with Him.
- The Gathering of all sheep in the pens & the shepherd calls His sheep – they know His voice because they have spent time with Him... they follow HIS LEAD because they trust Him.
- He leads them to food – shelter – protection etc.
- This is what David was writing about in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm as He placed God in the roll of Shepherd!

## Psalm 23

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. 2 He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. 3 He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. 4 Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. 5 You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil...

My cup overflows with blessings. 6 Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.

- David is speaking from first hand experience having lived the life of a Shepherd he understood what it meant to allow God to lead... to trust Him for provision, care, and keeping in the darkest and most dangerous places in life!
- Let's look again at a verse back in John 10

10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy.  
My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

- The only way to experience this life is the surrender of obedience and following His lead!
- God doesn't want to be invited on your journey thru life – He wants to be the guide that leads you thru life!
- The Shepherd you can Trust – whose voice you know
- Are you living the rich and satisfying life Jesus intends for you to live?

- This is not a life of health and wealth – no – it's a life of peace -a life firm on a foundation built on a relationship with the Creator – knowing He has it all under control - I can trust Him – thru life and all it throws at me – even thru death!
- Many Christians are still struggling because we're still trying to live for self - simply keeping God in our pocket like a GPS only asking for direction when we aren't sure what to do next!
- God must be in the lead and we must be following!

**John 14** If you love me, obey my commandments. 16  
And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another  
Advocate (*Greek is Paraclete =Comforter, Encourager,  
Counselor*), who will never leave you. 17 He is the  
Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth.

- We see here 2 key elements:
  1. The necessity of the Life of Obedience
  2. Following the Holy Spirit's leading

## Action Steps

- Have you said Yes to Jesus but in doing so have simply invited Him on your journey through life?
- As we close out 2016, let's submit our Yes to Jesus in full obedience & allow Him to take the lead as we head into 2017!
- You don't have to figure it all out and have it laid out in front of you... simply Trust Him and He will direct your steps!