

The Faith Script

CPFI Serving Christ and the World Through Pharmacy

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And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:8-11 (NIV)

Merry Christmas



Prayer Wall

God Has A Plan

This theme has been my recent focus as I reflect on my own life and try to understand what is going on around me. The best way for me to understand things is from the perspective that God has a plan and He is working out that plan continually. Other explanations seem less plausible. Recently I have been in a Bible Study on Ruth. It is evident that God is working out His plan in the life of Naomi and Ruth, although some might try explaining the story of Ruth around chance rather than providence. That a Sovereign God is working out His plan continually is the best explanation for the story being conveyed in the book of Ruth. If God worked out a plan for Ruth's life then I can easily accept that He is doing the same in my life too.

It is at the Christmas season God's plan becomes most evident. Our culture wants to take Christ out of Christmas or even change it to a Holiday Celebration, probably because the Christmas story reveals that God is real and He has a plan for His world. God shared that plan with the shepherds, as recorded in Luke 2:10-14 (ESV) "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in the manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased." On that first Christmas morning God declared another phase of His plan to the lowly shepherds, and because He put it into the Bible, His plan is shared with us. Later in His ministry, Jesus reveals another part of His plan in John 10:14 "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me." This came after he declared in John 10:10b "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." He desires us to know He has a wonderful plan for each of us. Because He loves us, He wants the best for us. It is true that sometimes my life circumstances make me wonder if God has abandoned me or at least momentarily forgotten me. A long life provides me the perspective that God has always been working out His plan in my life according to His promise in Romans 8:28 "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

At this Christmas season be reminded that just as God has a plan for His creation that He is working out continually, He has a plan for you too. It may not seem clear to you yet, it may be different than what you want, but you can be sure it is best for you because the God who loves you and promised you an abundant life, is working out His plan for you.

Join me in closing this meditation with a prayer of thankfulness for that Christmas gift from God that first Christmas morning that changed our world forever. Thank you Father for loving us so much that you sent your Son to live with us and die for us. As we trust in Him, you give us an abundant life now and forever. We don't deserve such love, but we accept it with gratitude. Help us to also acknowledge that you have a plan for each of us that you are working out for us. Help us to trust you completely and obey you fully. In Jesus Name, Amen

Fred M. Eckel, Immediate Past President
Chapel Hill, NC

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Bonclarken Conference Center

500 Pine Drive

Flatrock, North Carolina 28731



Student Retreat: June 3 to 7, 2020
Annual Conference : June 4 to 7, 2020

Theme: 'Faith Can Move Mountains' from Mark 11:23 and Matthew 17:20

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Registration closes: May 18, 2020
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