

The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

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CEOs

I once knew a pastor in Louisville who liked to refer to those who only attended church at certain times of the year as “CEOs” – CEO stood for “Christmas and Easter Only.” He would even do this from the pulpit on a Sunday morning. He was either poking fun at, or scolding, these individuals, depending on your perspective.

Whether they do so intentionally or not (and sometimes whether they are Christian or not) many people do hold up Christmas and Easter as the most important times of the year to attend church. We confess that Jesus was “conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary” and “the third day He rose again from the dead.” The Incarnation and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ are two of the most significant events in the history of salvation. Correction: they are two of the most significant events in history, period.

However, the Christian faith is about more than Christmas and Easter. For instance, we don’t want to minimize the importance of Jesus’ death on the cross, or His ascension, or even His life of perfect sinless obedience. We also shouldn’t overlook the significance of meeting together every Lord’s Day for worship. The problem with a CEO mentality is that two Sundays a year are remembered at the expense of fifty others.

We meet on the Lord’s Day (Sunday; see Revelation 1:10) because that is the day the Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Every time we meet on a Sunday for worship, we are celebrating His resurrection and we are declaring He rose from the dead. There is, therefore, a direct connection to the glory of our Lord’s resurrection in gathering on the Lord’s Day.

What about the Incarnation? Without the Incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ, nothing else in the Christian life would really be possible. If Jesus had not been born in Bethlehem, everything that followed could not have happened. If the Son of God had not taken flesh and become a man (the God-man!), then there could not have been a Jesus who truly lived and who truly died upon a cross. Without a flesh-and-blood Savior, there could be no atoning death for our sins (and no bodily resurrection from the dead, either).

It is vital to Christianity that Jesus “was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:4). It is likewise vital to Christianity that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). Those two facts should always amaze and astonish us. It would be hard to contemplate two greater miracles taking place. But everything Jesus did in between is important too. Richard Phillips (no relation) notes:

When Jesus took on our flesh, He gained a human body, which enabled Him to suffer death for us. Jesus also possessed a human mind and heart: He felt all that we feel, including sorrow and joy, weariness and temptation. Because of this, He is able to sympathize with us in our trials (Hebrews 4:15). Moreover, Jesus lived a human life in the same world in which we live. He was born and grew up as a boy. He learned a trade in His father’s carpenter shop. He had friends and neighbors; He paid taxes and was subject to the governing authorities.

Upcoming Events

THE DEACON OF THE MONTH is Nick Goulder. If you have any requests for the deacons, please contact Nick at 901-451-3206.

PRAYER/VISITATION: If anyone is sick, in need of prayer or a visit, please contact Milton Murphy at 901-476-2808.

OUTREACH TEAM: If you would like to participate in outreach or know of someone who needs a visit, please contact Milton Murphy.

WEDNESDAY SUPPER AT SIX MENU:

- **December 5:** Potato Bar
- **December 12:** Soup
- **December 19:** Christmas Play/Party
- **December 26:** None (Christmas Break)

FOOD DONATIONS: The food pantry needs to be restocked. Any donations of items non-perishable items like soup, canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, etc., are appreciated.

JOIN US: The children will be performing in the Christmas play on Wednesday, December 19, at 6 p.m. This year's play is a musical entitled Jesus Is Christmas to Me.

THANK YOU: Thanks to the Sunday School classes and everyone who helped out with Operation Christmas Child. We were able to collect 22 shoeboxes on very short notice! Please continue to pray that these shoeboxes will reach their intended destination and that the children who receive the gifts will understand the love of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ.

CANTATA: The choir will be performing the Christmas Cantata on Sunday evening, December 16, at 5 p.m. (with candle lighting to follow). This year's cantata will be There Is a Bethlehem.

LOOK FOR US! Be sure to look for the Brighton ARP Church float at the Brighton Christmas Parade on Monday, December 3rd. The theme for the float will be the same as the cantata: There Is a Bethlehem

New Website and Email address for the church.

Website: <http://www.brightonarp.org>

Email: baarp@att.net

If you have any ideas or suggestions for the church website, please contact Chris Gravley, webmaster, at 901-674-3851 or e-mail at chris_gravley@bellsouth.net.