

From the Pastor's Desk

It has always struck me as a little strange that the Genesis account says, "The Lord God called out to the man, Where are you?" I mean, are we really to think that God couldn't find Adam in the Garden after the Fall into Sin? Is that why God had to call out to him? Surely God knew exactly where Adam was. The really pertinent question is: "Did Adam know where Adam was?"

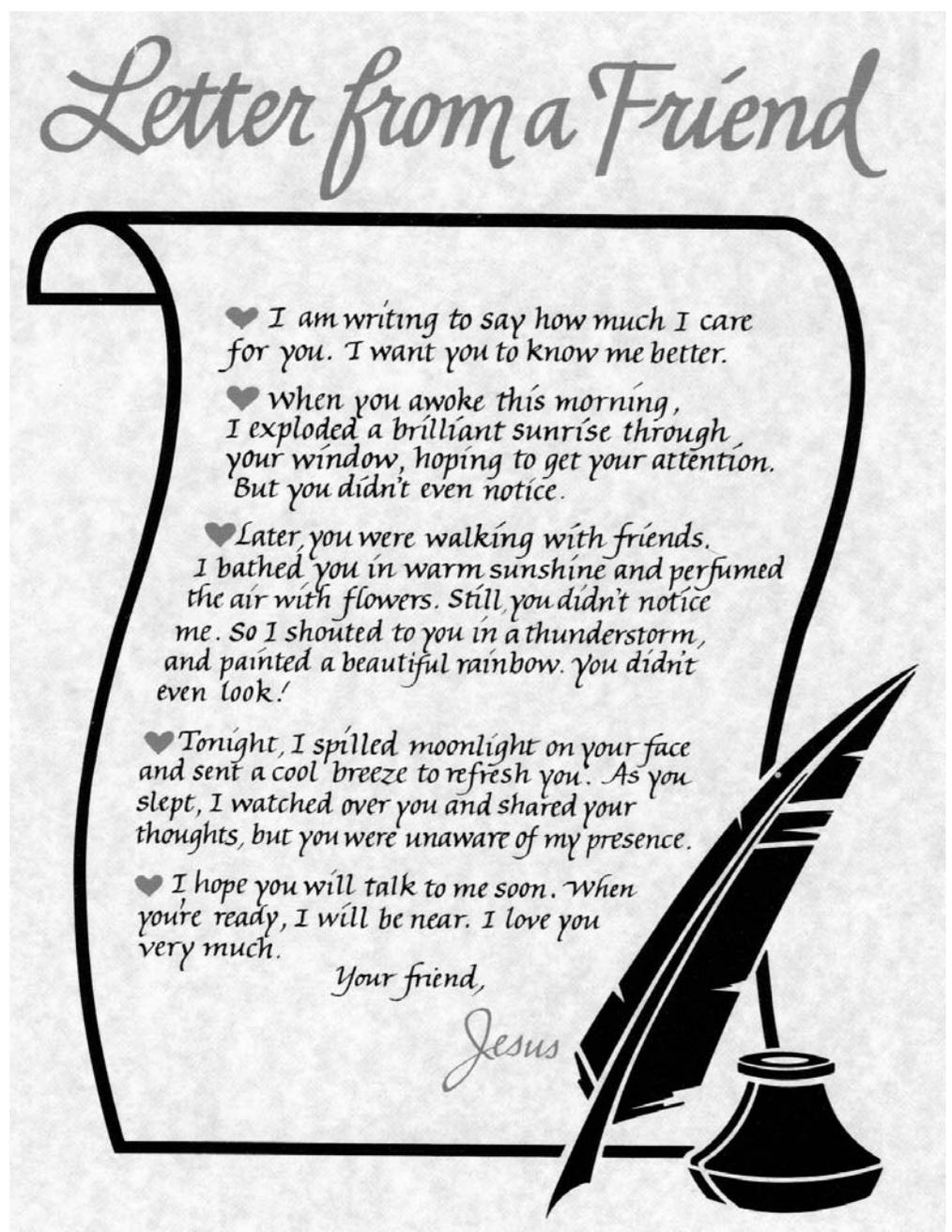
Did Adam sense the separation his sin had caused? Did he really understand why he and his wife suddenly had to "hide" from God? And what's with the need for "make-shift" clothing, did that mean they understood the consequences of their sin? I would strongly answer, they had no idea of the consequences of their deeds, and thus God had to ask, "Adam, do you know where you are?"

God didn't call to Adam just to put him down, but to set him up for hearing the first Good News, the promise of help through the woman's offspring. The Bible indicates that Adam and Even took God's promise to heart and lived in faith under God's forgiveness throughout their life on earth.

The question for us still is: "Do you know where you are now?" That we are still surrounded by bushes of sin is obvious and many people still are trying their best to hide in them. But when we are honest with ourselves, we know the pressure this "bush hiding" causes and the daily consequences of not knowing where we really are. How much more important, in fact lifesaving importance, it is for us to be daily reminded that we are Jesus' disciples, saved by grace and restored by God in our life's garden. Instead of hiding from Him, we now work to cultivate our awareness of His presence in and through us in our daily devotions and our weekly gathering with other disciples of Jesus for worship.

Knowing where we are as God's redeemed children opens our hearts to love Him, frees our hands to serve Him, awakens our tongues to praise Him and unlocks our treasures to support His mission in our world. As we prepare for the Christmas season again this year maybe you might begin by asking yourself one question, "Where are you, now?" I hope we can answer, "We are celebrating the joy and wonder of this gracious God, who loved us so much as to send His Only Son."

Blessed **CHRIST**mas Time,
Your Pastor Jim

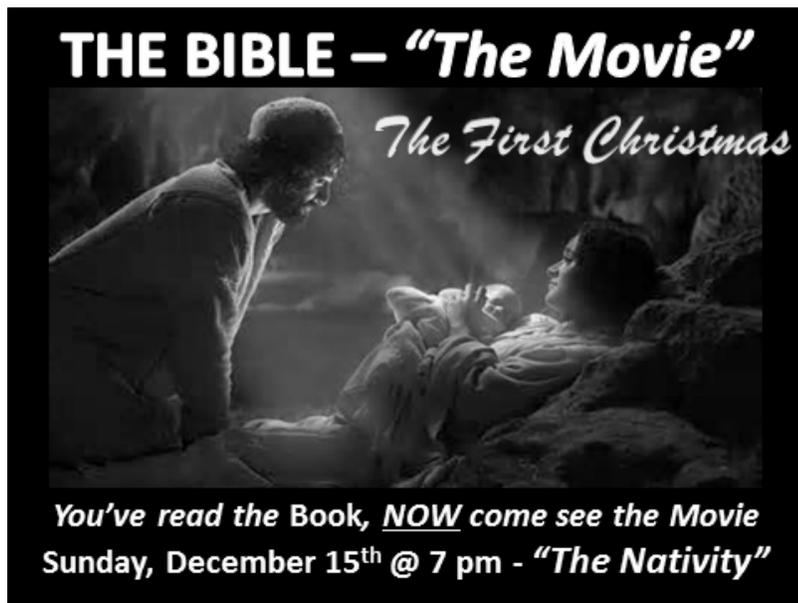


Tuesday “Walk Through the Bible”

Pastor Jim will hold only one class in the month of December, and that will be on Tuesday, December 10th, at either 1 pm or 7 pm. The classes are the same in each session, so which ever time best suits your schedule is the one you can choose. We will continue our study of 1 & 2 Chronicles.

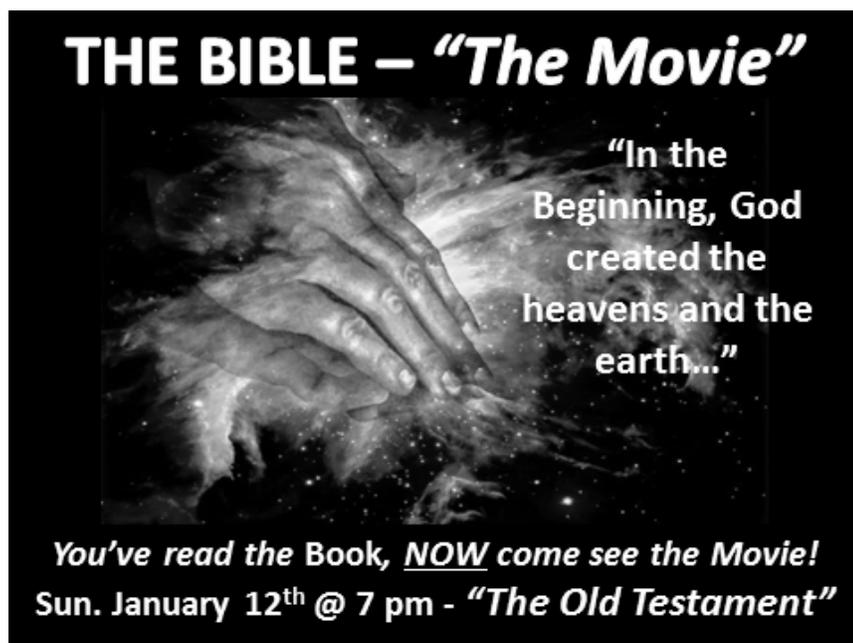
Teaching Events in December and the New Year

On December 15th, Pastor Jim will show a portion of the Movie “The Bible” – the Birth and Nativity of Jesus and His



early life. If you have not seen the TV version of the Bible, here is your chance.

In the New Year, Pastor Jim will offer two different sessions. The first on January 12th, Pastor Jim will continue with the Movie “The Bible” – The beginning of Creation and the Old Testament. If you have not seen the TV version of the Bible, here is your chance to do so.



Also in the New Year on January 26th, Pastor Jim will present his teaching on Psalm 23 that had to be cancelled because he was in the hospital. We love this Psalm and we think we know it well. But having never tended sheep, we miss much of the depth and meaning of this beautiful Psalm. Come and learn the Psalm 23 from a shepherd's perspective.

The Beloved Psalm Brought to Life for Today's Readers

Psalm 23

New Date!



On Sunday, January 26th at 7 PM

We will study what you think you know, but...

You will be surprised!