

## "Under New Ownership"

"You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) What does it mean to "not belong to myself?" I can think of a few things.

1) It means that I should probably do a lot more consulting with my new Owner. There is more to consider than just me and what I want to do, there is God and what He wants me to do.

If you're anything like me, this makes sense until you begin to wonder what He wants you to do in certain circumstances. Then it isn't always so clear.

For this we have Scripture and gifted members of the fellowship to consult, but in all instances it is the attitude of the heart that is most important. It is a submissive attitude toward God that He is looking for – what the Old Testament calls "a broken and contrite heart." It's being always open and teachable because I realize my new Owner has a different way of looking at things than what comes natural for me. In fact, over time, I have come to realize that what comes natural for me is often my biggest problem.

Instead of "how much can I get away with here," God is looking for an attitude that says, "Even if I'm not sure, I will still do what God wants me to do here." God is not going to lead astray any person who humbly seeks to do His will.

2) Our new ownership also means there will be inner conflict. It used to be just me. Now I have me and the Spirit and we may not always be in sync.

In Roman 7, Paul concludes that an inner battle over right and wrong is a good thing because it proves at least that something good is going on. "But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good." (Romans 7:16) Or in other words, he may have done the wrong thing, but at least he knew it was wrong.

Consider even the Son of God whose joy was always to do the will of His Father in heaven, who in the garden of Gethsemane cried out after sweating blood over it, "Yet I want Your Will to be done, not Mine." (Luke 22:42)

It used to be easier. It used to be just me left to the whim of my desires. But all that has changed. I am not my own anymore; I have been bought by God at a high price – the blood of Jesus – and He has a plan and a purpose for me as my New Owner.

3) Being under this new ownership means I have to consult HIS owner's manual with greater frequency to find out how He wants me to live and act in life.

Paul, writing to Timothy says, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The Bible is God's Owner's Manual, guiding me, correcting me, and training me with the one purpose, namely, to equip me for every good work.

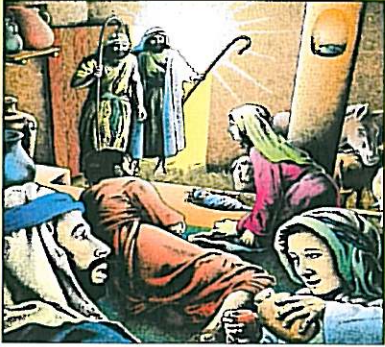
As I get older, I sometimes think that I have learned so many things, and that maybe, what is yet to be learned is very small now. Then I get this rude awakening, and I discover I have only scratched the surface of what God knows, and that which He would like me to know of Him. He leads me to see how





# CHRISTMAS

## *The Real Story*



In December – “Christmas – The Real Story”

**On December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** – Pastor will teach on “Christmas – the Real Story.” We are absolutely amazed as to how much our Western Culture has shaped the Christmas Story we have been taught. When we investigate the Bible, many of these supposed details get changed.

- ✓ Were there three Wise Men?
- ✓ Did they along with the Shepherds show up just after Jesus was born?
- ✓ If Jesus was laid to rest in a manger, does that mean He was born in a barn?

Come and find out the real Biblical story of Christmas.

These would be great events to which to invite friends and relatives!

**New “To Me” Ministry  
of our Church**



*Worship for Shut-Ins*

Sharing Christ's Love Through Ministry and Media Since 1980

It is called “Worship for Shut-Ins” and the program began broadcasting from Fort Wayne, Indiana, on October 5, 1980. Starting with their new programming year, which began in October of this year, the new speaker for Worship for Shut-Ins will be the Rev. Tom Ahlersmeyer of Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Fort Wayne, where he has been Pastor since 2010. Prior to that, he was President of Concordia University in Ann Arbor Michigan. Prior to that, he was the President of the Cleveland High School Association, with offices in Lutheran West. While he was with the Association, he was asked to preach for Pastor Jim’s Installation at Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Cleveland in 2000. The joke for that day was that both President Tom and Pastor Jim had equally hard last names to say.

Further information on Worship for Shut-Ins can be had by contacting them at Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. 5 Martin Luther Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46825-4935 or call them toll free at 888-286-8002 or visit them on the web at [www.worshipforshutins.org](http://www.worshipforshutins.org) or [info@worshipforshutins.org](mailto:info@worshipforshutins.org). Broadcast schedule for Cleveland and surrounding areas is listed below in the box. Cut it out and tape it to your TV remote.

### **OHIO**

- **Cleveland Area** (also Akron, Canton, and Kent)  
Sunday - 11:30 am on WRLM-TV 47
- **Sandusky Area**  
Sunday - 10:00 am and Monday - 1:00 pm on Buckeye CableSystem 81
- **Toledo Area** (also in Southeast Michigan)  
Sunday – 9:30 am on WLMB-TV 40 (also on DIRECTV and Dish Network 7826)
- **Dyersburg Area**  
Sunday - 11:30 am on WDYR-TV 33