

Keeping The X in Xmas

THE X FACTOR:

THE WISE MEN'S LONG TRIP HOME:

Matthew 2:7-12

MARY AND JOE'S DETOUR:

Matthew 2:13-23

KEEPING THE X IN XMAS:

1. God speaks even **clearer today** than He did **then**.
2. Tomorrow's **guidance** starts with today's **obedience**.
3. Following God can lead to some **scary places**.
4. Relationships need to be **protected** – or they **fall apart**.

Food for Thought

For the week of December 27, 2009

The depth of God's love shown to us by the sending of His Son Jesus is an incredible reality to grasp. Yet, equally amazing is that as followers of Jesus, He is alive in us! How do the following verses describe what it means to have Jesus alive in us far beyond the story of the manger?

John 16:33

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." [NIV]

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." [NIV]

Romans 8:1

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, [NIV]

Romans 12:5

so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. [NIV]

1 Corinthians 4:15

Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. [NIV]

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! [NIV]

Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. [NIV]

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. [NIV]

Colossians 2:9-10

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, [10] and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. [NIV]

Jesus' work in our life helps guide us through those sudden, needed detours similar to what Joseph, Mary and the Wise Men experienced. How might the following verses help you through the detours God may call you to take as you follow Him?

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart

and lean not on your own understanding;

[6] in all your ways acknowledge him,

and he will make your paths straight. [NIV]

Romans 8:26-39

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. [27] And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

[28] And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. [29] For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. [30] And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

[31] What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? [32] He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? [33] Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. [34] Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. [35] Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? [36] As it is written:

"For your sake we face death all day long;

we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

[37] No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. [38] For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, [39] neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. [NIV]