

RELIGION

QUESTIONS? Contact Editor James Leigh at (870) 246-5525 or jleigh@siftingsherald.com

Divine Connection A woman's devotion

**Know Christ,
Know Christmas
No Christ, No
Christmas**

No one's credentials could be compared to those of Paul's. Looking from the outside in, He seemed to have had everything. As confidence to the flesh, a list of his advantages were very impressive. What else could he wish for?

However, on the road to Damascus his life took a dramatic turn when he met the crucified and resurrected Jesus Christ. After Paul's experience, his spiritual eyes were opened and from that day on, everything that he had previously built his life upon, became meaningless. He realized that his



humanly accomplishments were not mere enough. In Philippians 3:10 he writes: "I want to know Christ..."

After reading Paul's sentiment my thoughts turned toward Christmas. What about Christmas? Christmas is a wonderful season. And most of us find great joy feasting with family and friends. Our Christmas trees are embellished with glowing lights and shiny orna-

ments. Not to mention, the countless hours that are spent in search of the perfect gift. None of these things are bad in themselves, but it's all too easy to get caught up and lose focus on why we celebrate Christmas.

After Paul's conversion he had something to celebrate. And like him, our sentiment should be: "I want to know Christ..." We may have a lot, but it holds no worth in comparison to knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Knowing Him exceeds all else. He's the most valuable and costly gift that anyone can receive. If you know Him, then you know what Christmas is all about.

Carolyn Crow is a contributing writer and can be reached at crowcjo@gmail.com.

DOWNHOME DELIBERATIONS The Light



Most people like pretty lights. My wife Barbara, and I both like lights, and she has done a wonderful job of decorating inside our house and in our yard with an array of beautiful Christmas lights.

The best \$15 I have ever spent was when we went to Garvan Woodland Gardens near Hot Springs to see the Christmas lights. I would highly recommend to anyone, a visit to the beautiful gardens with over five million lights. Even though the lines were long, we were able to keep moving ahead to see the lights. And for those who don't want to walk, they have carts with drivers who

can drive you on the paths to enjoy the spectacle.

Christmas is all about light. Jesus came as the Light of the world. He is referred to as the "dayspring" or "sunrising" from on high who came "to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace" (Luke 1:78,79).

Gifts are given at Christmas reflecting the wonderful gift that was given to mankind of Jesus, the Light, so that we don't have to remain in the darkness of sin and eternal separation from God. He is given to light our path with love, liberty and eternal life. Darkness is dispelled when the Light shines in and out of our lives.

What a beautiful display when the multi-colored Light shines on our path! (Revelation 4:3). Where we stumbled along in the past, with the Light, we now can see faults, failures, dangerous devices and

traps, holes in the road and unseen obstacles to a life of love and liberty. The key to life is to stay in the Light. It is good for the Light to expose us so we can go free, instead of just sitting there in the darkness and shadow of death existing in present loss and awaiting eternal doom. Light comes to us through Jesus because of his everlasting love for us, and because he desires to only give us good things.

So Christmas is a time of love, light, life and giving, all because of what Jesus has done for us. Because of Jesus there can be peace where there was turmoil, and there can be peace in the midst of turmoil. We can decorate our hearts and minds with the Light of Jesus, and enjoy our time together as a family filled with his love and love. Merry Christmas to all!

Jackie Calhoun is a contributing writer and can be reached at jackiecalhoun@gmail.com. www.gotoallnations.org

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Curtis First Baptist Church
1 mile east of HWY 67 Curtis Junction near the railroad tracks. Phone 870-246-7739
www.facebook.com/curtis.first.baptist.church
Sunday School10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Classes.....6:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening Worship.....6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting.....6:30 p.m.
Pastor - Rick Hyde

Eastern Star Baptist Church
With Rev. Marshall Allen
Sunday School9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study6:30 p.m.
(870) 353-6247
141 Brewer Road, Smithton Community, Gurdon

East Whelen Baptist Church
With Pastor, Bro. Tony Rogers
East Whelen Road, Gurdon

Evergreen Church of God
With Pastor Kevin Sims
(870) 353-4888, 7198 Hwy. 67 South, Gurdon

First Assembly of God
First AOG, Gurdon
1007 E. Main St.
Gurdon, 870-724-7020
Pastor Andrew and Sara Goodwin

First Baptist Church
Pastor Randal Murphy
Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship.....6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study.....7 p.m.
(870) 353-4421, 209 Pine Street, Gurdon

First Christian Church of Gurdon
Sunday School.....10 a.m.

Morning Worship11 a.m.
Joslyn & 3rd Streets, Gurdon
First United Methodist Church
With Rev. Travis Langley
Sunday School9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship10:50 a.m.
Wednesday U.M. Youth7:00 p.m.
(870) 353-4469, 201 East Walnut, Gurdon

Gurdon First Presbyterian
Sunday Morning
.....Fellowship.....9:30 a.m.
.....Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.
.....Sunday Morning Worship.....10:50 a.m.
.....Community Yoga - Tuesdays 3:00pm & 4:30pm
(870) 353-4871
P.O. Box 146 Gurdon, AR

Gurdon Family Worship Center
Pastor Chris Williams
Sunday School10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening6:00 p.m.
For info. call (479) 280-2457, Corner of Joslyn and South 2nd St.

Mount Canaan Baptist Church
With Rev. Johnny Harris
Sunday School9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Mission5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study6:30 p.m.
(870) 353-2144, 504 S. 5th Street, Gurdon

Muldrew Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal (C.M.E.) Church
310 South 4th Street, Gurdon
Pastor: E. Elise West
501-837-9201

New Caney Baptist Church
With Bro. Ken Beaver, Pastor
Sunday School10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.
Sunday Missions Training.....1:00 p.m.
Wednesday Family Meal.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Youth Ministries.....6:30 p.m.
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For info. call (870) 353-2781, 1/2 mile North from Hwy. 53 & 67

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With Rev. Jewel Danner
501 S. Main Street, Hwy 53, Gurdon

New Mt. Zion Baptist Church
With Rev. W. Colbert
P.O. Box 174, Hwy 53, Gurdon
(870) 353-6317

Oak Grove Community Church
Kansas Road at Vaden road

Red Springs Baptist Church
With Pastor Mike Black
Sunday School10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday Night Services.....6:30 p.m.
(870) 353-4596, Pastor's # 353-4990
2956 Red Springs Road, Gurdon

Ronoake Baptist Church
Rev. Troy Hearn, Pastor
Sunday School10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship11:00 a.m.
Greenville Community P.O. Box 125, Gurdon

Shady Grove Baptist Church
Pastor Charlton Kingrey
3389 Central Road, Curtis

Southfork Baptist Church
With Bro. Ed Anderson
Gurdon

St. Clair Baptist Church
With Rev. D. B. Newburn
870-274-3358, 72 St. Clair Church Rd., Okolona

Sycamore Church
With Rev. James McCain, Sr. Pastor
870-353-6368, 18561 Hwy 51 South, Gurdon

Baring Cross Church of God in Christ
5655 Hwy. 67, Smithton

Beech Street Baptist Church
Randy Cox, Pastor
Robyn McDowell, Music Director
Sunday School9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:50 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Service.....7:00 p.m.
(870) 353-4971
E-mail: beechstreet05@sbcglobal.net
1305 Main Street, Gurdon

Beime First Baptist Church
With Preacher James Blackwood
Sunday School10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship10:55 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:30 p.m.
& Wed. Mid Week Service
& Wed. Kids6:30 p.m.
(870) 353-6651 Pastor # (870) 353-4862, Highway 51, Beime

Bethlehem Baptist Church
With Pastor Lloyd Baumgardner
(870) 353-6556, Coon Road, Gurdon

Calvary United Pentecostal Church
With Pastor Bill O'Connell
Sunday Morning10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening.....7:30 p.m.
(870) 353-6560, 7128 Hwy. 67 South, Gurdon

Carrie Street Church of God
With Pastor Ivory Curry
Lyndon & Carrie Streets, Gurdon

Center Point Baptist Church
With Pastor Ollie Trout
Sunday School9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study6:30 p.m.
(870) 353-6481
PO Box 215, 33 Center Point Road, Gurdon

Cornerstone Pentecostal Church of God
With Pastor Harold W. Jones
Wednesday Night Services.....7:00 p.m.
Sunday School9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship6:00 p.m.
(870) 353-6358

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the middle of them."