

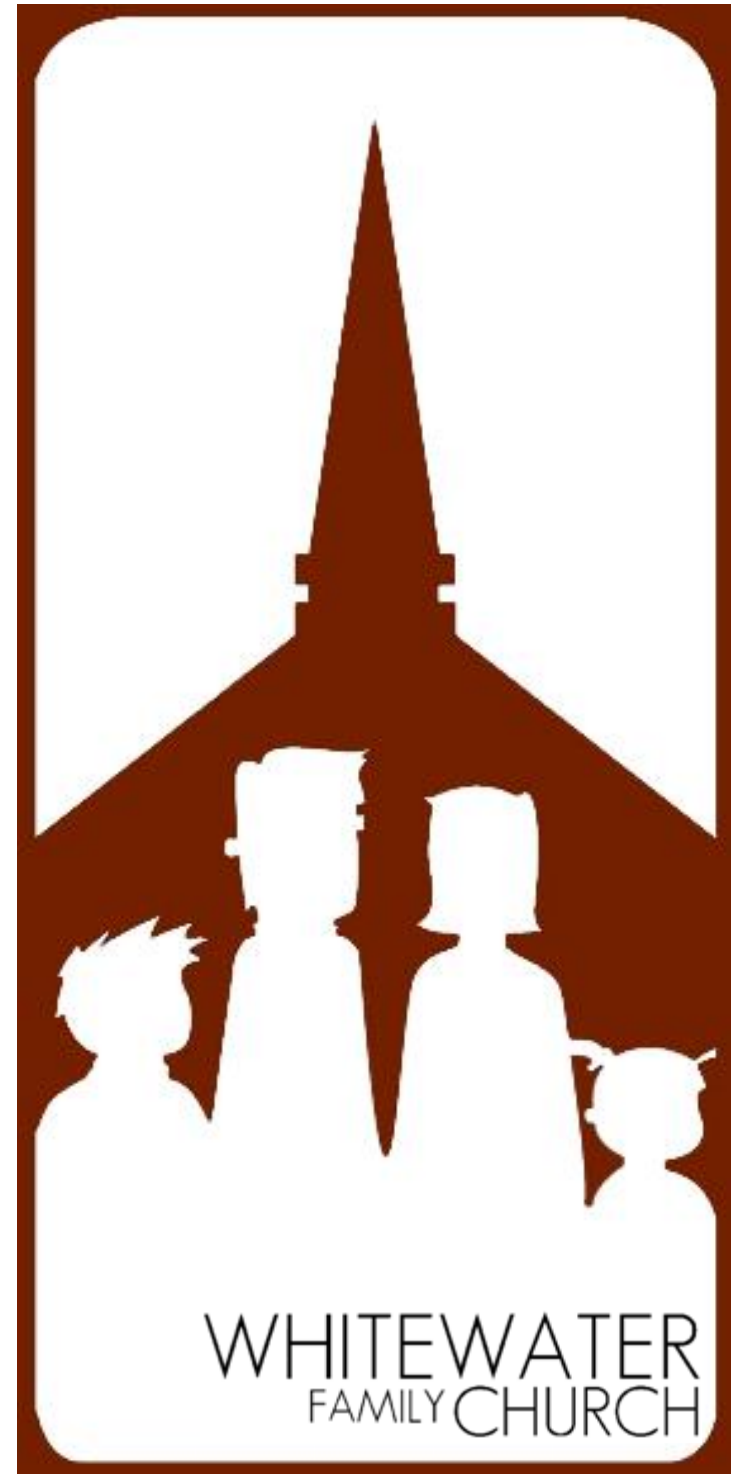
Thoughts from Pastor – A Sermon Companion

One of the first things people think about at Christmas time is the giving of gifts. And there is nothing wrong with that. I've heard many Christians say things over the years like "The only gift I need is Jesus" or "The true meaning of Christmas has been poisoned by materialism." While those statements are philosophically accurate, I think sometimes we try so hard to be pious about Christmas that we forget to enjoy the blessings God has for us.

The birth of Christ and His life, death, and resurrection are the greatest gifts that the Lord has ever bestowed on mankind. Christmas is a celebration of all of those gifts. They were given to us through no merit of our own. We could not purchase, work for, or create these things on our own. They needed to be given.

We didn't deserve such an opportunity. We couldn't be good enough. We couldn't live righteously. We could not even begin to meet the high standards of such a blessing. Yet it was given anyway. That's what makes it such an impressive gift.

Therefore I do not think we should ever begrudge the giving of gifts. In fact I think we should celebrate it all the more. If you feel culture has hijacked gift giving then take it back. And how should we do that? By giving gifts that matter. Gifts that mean something. Gifts that meet needs. But mostly by sharing Christ with understanding and love.



Why the Wise Men? Matthew 2:1-18

- I. **There are a lot of things we don't know about the WISE MEN. Who were they? Where did they come from? Why did they come?**

- II. **Since we know so little about them we need to focus in on what they REPRESENT in the Christmas story.**

- III. **All the people in the Christmas story honor God by GIVING what they have. Mary gave herself, Joseph their family, the Shepherds their voice, and the Wise Men gave their worship and their wealth.**

NOTES



At Whitewater Family Church we strive to pursue God with honesty and excellence by building stronger families, engaging in mentor based discipleship, and encouraging personal calling and ministry

Things we do Every Week

Sunday School 9:30am

Youth Group - 7:00 Wednesdays

Pasta Dinner Wednesday!!!

Serving from 5pm-6:30pm. Helpers can start showing up at 4:15!

Sunday School / January 3rd

Sunday School will start again next week with a focus on Prayer

Starting a Week of Prayer and Vision

I would like everyone in the church to take some time this first week of the year to fast and pray for this next year of ministry here at the church. I would also like to have us thinking about things we would like to do and see happen this year.

Yearly Dinners

Pastor Mike and Lynn try every year to have dinner/lunch with everyone from the church early in the year. So come find us and schedule a time.

Home-Groups

Wednesday 6:30pm

Home-Groups are designed to grow your faith, connect to your church family, and share the love of Christ with your community.

Wednesday // 1281 Blackriver Ct, Whitewater WI, 53190

1540 W Walworth Ave. Whitewater, WI 53190

You can also find us on Facebook or at www.whitewaterag.org

Pastoral Staff

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