

Wise Men Still Seek Him

By Flo Hubbs, Director of PFOX

W ith the political midterm elections over, we can turn our attention to what really matters – celebrating the birth of our Savior.

I am certainly not saying that politics is unimportant; in fact, Christian indifference is largely the reason why we are currently saddled with a government that is at war with our most sacred values, such as protecting innocent life and God-ordained marriage and the family.

What I am saying is that it's really something of a relief to move on from all the shrill, political noise to the season of giving, peace and hope. Even the secular world is comforted by the timeless songs we hear playing in office buildings and shopping malls.

May we continue to be thankful for all God has given us. We still have the great privilege and freedom here in America to continue to seek and share the Good News about Jesus Christ, which is not the case in many, many other countries.

Governments and hostile cultures have tried for 2,000 years to destroy the name of Jesus. They have all failed because He is Lord of all.

New questions

Today, we face all sorts of unforeseen family dynamics and tough questions that previous generations simply did not have to confront. When I was a



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child, two of the biggest family queries were: "Where do babies come from?" and "Why is there divorce?"

Children still ask those kinds of questions, but now they also ask about the LGBTQ+ propaganda that is permeating everything in our culture. The best way to answer many of these questions is to share what God says about it in His Word – the Bible. That establishes what is right and true, and makes the ever-changing, dubious assertions more obvious.

God does not make mistakes when He creates each of us male or female. I realize bringing up this conversation at Christmas may create confrontation and anger. Yet we are meant to lovingly affirm each other's God-given sex—not the many possible gender identities. God has much better plans for us than attempting to solve gender confusion on our own.

Parents are hearing things like, "That's just fine for you, but I was born this way." Or, "I was born in the wrong body and now I really need to do something about it." Or just, "It is what it is," the classic cop-out.

Often, parents would hear this kind of stuff when kids returned home from college ... but now they hear it from younger kids who are still in middle school or high school, thanks to the agenda of some corrupt "educators."

The lure of worldly wealth

Another pied piper leading people away from true faith is the "prosperity Gospel," which makes false and misleading claims about guaranteed riches in return for certain behavior, including prayers for wealth.

For loved ones caught up in this snare, you might want to point them to Bible passages such as Proverbs, which lauds wisdom over worldly acquisitions. Or lead them to Jesus' warning in

Matthew 16:26: For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?

God doesn't want us to live in poverty but also doesn't want us to worship the things of the world.

Remove falsehood and lies far from me;

Give me neither poverty nor riches—Feed me with the food allotted to me;

Lest I be full and deny You, And say, "Who is the Lord?" Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God. —Proverbs 30:8-9

We were created to have an intimate relationship with our Lord. God has placed that desire in our hearts. When searching for fufillment, our focus should be to seek God, serve Him, love Him, and let God fill us with His love. Anything less is "chasing the wind," as Solomon put it in Ecclesiastes.

We're not supposed to go it alone on this earth. We are invited to lay down our burdens at the cross and to seek fellowship with others on this remarkable spiritual journey. That means confessing sins one to another, which keeps us accountable.

For thousands of years, Satan has tried to destroy God's perfect plan for sexuality, marriage and the family. But he has no power where faith is strong. Once we ask Jesus Christ into our hearts as our Savior, His truth sets us free.

This doesn't mean we won't face challenges. The Bible warns us about false gods and false prophets, and our time is full of them. They come in sheep's clothing but are inwardly ferocious wolves. They're led by the Father of Lies, Satan, who the Bible says is like a roaring lion devouring anyone he can.

Lessons from the Book of Ruth

But God is infinitely more powerful. In the Book of Ruth, we are given a picture of His sovereign hand of protection. Ruth and her mother-in-law Naomi walked more than 120 miles from Moab to Bethlehem. They didn't have any widows assistance program, and women did not work for wages. They had no weapons and were quite vulnerable to evildoers, except that God watched over them.

When the time came, God provided a kinsman redeemer, Boaz, who let Ruth and Naomi glean in his fields after a harvest. Ruth became his wife, and part of the family line of Jesus.

God had a long-range plan for the coming Messiah that included Ruth, and He has a long-range plan for each of us.

One of the best, simplest slogans we see around this time is: "Wise Men Still Seek Him."



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Flo



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