

# St. Timothy's Banner

## Christmas 2023



John 1:14b We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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## The One

By Do Fox

Trust that I am the One  
Who came from the Father.  
Divinity entered humanity!  
This happened to thwart the enemy  
And bring true Light back to man!  
Belief in Me opens the gates of your Spirit  
And ushers in an understanding of Love.  
The Father and I want you with us,  
Filled with Our light, you bring life to others.  
Devine Life is different from the flesh.  
It originates in Our presence within you.  
This unfolds gently, and tenderly,  
And results in new hopes and dreams.  
You will never grow tired in this Light.  
It spawns Grace, and Truth  
Which are found only in Us.  
Just as I and the Father are One  
So you, through your faith and obedience  
Become enfolded in this Grace and Truth.  
Trust Me in this!  
My Life enters into you,  
Saving, transforming, and blessing you  
Now, and forever, AMEN



## From Grief to Glory

By Rev. Dan Endresen



What a sad Hannukah it was for Jesus' people. And what a terrifying time for everyone in the Holy Land – the land of Jesus. There is no peace. And even as we look at the Christmas narrative, we cannot ignore the fact that the peace that Jesus was bringing at his first coming was not the political peace on earth that his people were looking for. We cannot avoid the fact that the Savior was born a helpless baby and placed in a troth that animals were fed from because some Roman emperor made an edict that forced the young couple from the comfort of their home at the time of the birthing. We can't ignore the fact that the helpless enfant would soon have to be hustled away from Bethlehem to avoid an attempt on his life while other enfant boys his age were slaughtered. His very birth brought on that tragedy. And conflict and hostility would continue to follow him. As we continue on from the Christmas story and come to Jesus' presentation in the temple we cannot avoid the words of Simeon, that a sword would someday pierce Jesus' mother's soul. It would do so as a sword pierced Jesus' side at the end of his crucifixion. Someone I admire once said, "Grief is the price we pay for love". We see that in the process of salvation – in Mary and Jesus' disciples, but especially in the Godhead – in the broken heart of Jesus – our Savior. The grief came first – and then the joy of salvation. Finally, peace comes for those who put their trust in Him.

We, as Christians, have peace – knowing all will be well in the end. And we look forward to peace and joy on earth only because we know the end of this Christmas story. Even though the world may regard Christmas simply as a holiday to be kind to one another, and enjoy a spirit of good will for a few days, we Christians know it is much more than that. A Savior from sin and death was born to us. He conquered them both for us, and for everyone who puts their faith and trust in him. Because of that we are already redeemed from lawless deeds, purified and empowered by our Savior for good works. Jesus' act, in submitting to his Father's will and receiving death for us, brought us peace with God, and his good will toward us. And we can now look forward to "the

blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ", when he returns to bring political peace on earth (Titus 2:13).

But gloom remains on God's people, even this Hannukah. They have yet to see the light of Christmas. They have yet to recognize their Messiah. "Nevertheless", as the prophet showed, they will. "...the gloom *will not be* upon her who *is* distressed". We gentile Christians are a people who walked in darkness who have seen the great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined. But the light of Christmas awaits them. "For unto us a child is born. Unto us a Son is given"; And what a day it will be when "the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice. From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this" (Is. 9:6-7).

Pray that all God's people may seek and find their Savior – their Messiah – and recognize him as their Lord and King, as we have this Christmas. Pray that they come to him in faith as the shepherds of old did, and glorify and praise God.

Psalm 122: 6-9

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
"May they prosper who love you.  
<sup>7</sup> Peace be within your walls,  
Prosperity within your palaces."

<sup>8</sup> For the sake of my brethren and companions,  
I will now say, "Peace *be* within you."  
<sup>9</sup> Because of the house of the LORD our God  
I will seek your good.



# The Word One to One

By Deacon Alan Arnold

As you may know (or maybe not), every ANiC synod has a general theme around which all the teaching is based throughout the week. This year's was "Sent by Jesus" based on John 20:21 *"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.'"*

Richard Borgonon started us off Wednesday, after Morning Prayer, with morning and afternoon sessions about "The Word One to One". This tool is relatively new in Canada, even though it has been around for about 15 years and is already translated into 6 languages (French, Czech, Russian, Ukrainian and 2 Chinese dialects) and they are working on a Spanish translation, and used on every continent, including mainland China. Richard insisted that the level of English in the notes be as simple as possible, so in other countries W121 has been a good ESL tool, as well as spreading the Word of God.

The first part of Richard's talk was framed around the following 4 questions.

- 1) Are our churches dying, simply surviving or thriving with new Christians today?
- 2) How and where is the Word being shared today?
- 3) Are we equipping our congregations to have confidence in what we are sharing?
- 4) Do we run our evangelistic events so that they are comfortable to us – yet alien to non-Christians?

Let's look at the last question more closely. In this increasingly more polytheistic and/ or secular world around us, it is less and less likely to find people who have seen, never mind read, the Bible. The days of there being a Bible in every home (even if it is just sitting on the book shelf) are gone.

Inviting a non-Christian to a church service or Bible study is comfortable for us but very discomfoting to them. People don't like to be in situations where they feel lost. Imagine attending one of our services and feeling totally lost, shrinking further and further into their seats, not knowing whether to stand, sit, say something or keep quiet. Who or what are we wor-

shipping. By the time the sermon comes around, they stopped listening.

Or at a Bible Study, everyone is sitting there with Bible and note pads (or smartphones) and the leader says, "Okay everyone, turn to Ephesians 3:7, where we left off last session." How much more uncomfortable can we make it for our invitee.

Even Rico Tice, the author of 'Christianity Explored' in a short video during Richard's talk, explained they were finding that non-Christians were more uncomfortable as they felt to be outsiders and were unwilling to make the commitment for the duration of the course. BUT, those who joined after completing W121 were more comfortable with the Word, even though it was a different book of the Bible, and willing to stay the course as they had completed the whole 42 episodes of John.

The concept of "The Word One to One" is very simple. You sit down\* one on one with the person you have invited and go through the book of John verse by verse as long as they are interested in continuing. And the pages are set up as follows. On the lefthand page are 1-4 verses. On the righthand are some questions and answers.

\*Although sitting down next to someone is preferred, the books are also available as an app and as a pdf download.

So you don't have to call yourselves Evangelists or Missionaries, if those words carry a lot of baggage for you, you are 'page-turners' of the Word of God and the voice of the Holy Spirit (so you are evangelizing and on the mission to reach the lost, just don't tell anybody). There is no need to get involved in theological debates, in fact the course was designed to avoid that.

On Friday morning, Bishop John Guernsey gave our final Bible teaching on the subject "9 Reasons to Share the Good News of Jesus Christ." I leave you to look up the verses and meditate on them.

- 1) The Great Commission: Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8

2) Because of the Needs of others: Matthew 9:36–38

3) Because of our Love for Them: 1 Thessalonians 2:8

4) Because of the Sheer Joy of Telling Them: 1 John 1:1–4

5) Because of the Love of Christ in Us: 2 Corinthians 5:14–15

6) Because God is Depending on Us: 2 Corinthians 5:18–20

7) Because it is Impossible to be Quiet: Acts 4:18–20

8) Because it Helps Us to Grow in the Knowledge of Christ: Philemon 4–6

And 9) Because So Much Is At Stake: Acts 26:15–18

In the new year, I would like to offer an information session to more fully describe 'The Word One to One' and why I think it would be a good addition to our outreach tools to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

## ANSWER TO PRAYER

By Harn Yawnghwe

Some of us may sometimes feel that God does not hear us. We feel that we pray the same things over and over again and nothing changes. But sometimes we experience God in a different way.

The other day, our son lost his wedding ring when he was shoveling snow in front of his car. It was cold. He did not have gloves on and the ring flew off his finger and disappeared into the darkness. He looked for it in vain and finally decided to order a metal detector. I offered to help.

The next day, the metal detector arrived and our son took some time off work to look for the ring before the City cleared the snow the following day. When I arrived, our son had been busy with his metal detector

for about half-an-hour in the sub-zero temperatures, in front of his parked car. He was not having much luck.

The snow he was dealing with was now actually ice. But luckily, it could still be crushed with one's boots. The metal detector was beeping erratically all over the place and we kept on crushing ice, hoping to find the ring. I asked our son if this was the actual spot and he said he was not sure. I think he had moved the car after losing the ring. He then decided to move the car back a bit as it seemed to be interfering with the metal detector, and he said that the car may have been parked further back. But the car could not be moved that far back as there was a truck parked behind.

Still no luck after another half-an-hour. We were looking for the proverbial needle in a haystack. Our son even went to check the walkway by the side of the road. Nothing. He decided to move the car again, this time further into the road to give us room to look for the ring in the area that had been under the car. It was getting very cold and I said to our son that we should pray since it was impossible to find the ring, not even knowing where to look. "Mum is praying."

My wife had reminded me before I left the house to pray with our son. I had forgotten, jumping right into the fray, so to speak. I started looking in the area beside the rear tire of the car – chopping ice and spreading it out. I prayed quietly, "Lord, forgive us for not praying earlier. It is impossible to find. Give us your wisdom where to look for it, or just show us where it is."

Right then, our son said, "There, what's that?" and went to look at the area where the rear wheel would have been on the other side. It was his wedding ring! We could hardly believe our eyes. It was in plain sight but we had not seen it before.

Praise the Lord for answering our prayers.





**December 5**

**The Names of Christ**

**Philippians 2:5-11**

The Bible ascribes many different names to Jesus, all of which provide great insight into His character and person. Here are some from John's gospel that I find particularly revealing:

**The Good Shepherd** (10:11) protects his sheep at all cost from predators. They know His voice and follow Him.

**The Door** (vv. 7-9) is the only way to enter heaven. Whoever enters through the "gate" of Christ will be saved.

**The Vine** (15:1-10) is the source of our spiritual life. When we stay intimately connected to Jesus, we bear fruit. If we do not remain in Him, we wither.

**The Bread of Life** (6:25-35) the only one who can truly satisfy our hearts. Jesus feeds our souls with sustenance that never leaves us wanting for more.

**The Light of the World** (9:5) shines His light through our countenance as a ministry and testimony to a dark world.

**The Way** (14:6) to happiness, peace, joy, and eternal life is Jesus Christ.

**The Truth** (14:6) of His revelation, as recorded in the New Testament, is the reason we can know as much as we do about God.

**The Life** (14:6) Jesus imparts to believers is powerful, effective, and fruitful, not only in eternity but here on earth as well.

In biblical times, Israelites would choose a baby's name based on the child's characteristics or a hope or **prayer** of the parent. The names given to Jesus tell a great deal about His ministry on earth 2,000 years ago. The scriptural names describing Him reveal who He was and is and will be for eternity.

**For more biblical teaching and resources from Dr. Charles Stanley, please visit [www.intouch.org](http://www.intouch.org).**

**And Listen to Dr. Charles Stanley at [OnePlace.com](http://OnePlace.com)!**

Submitted By Barrie Fox



## DOES SCIENCE CONTRADICT THE BIBLE?

By Harn Yawnghwe



We sometimes hear the argument that science has proven the Bible to be wrong, or that science and faith are incompatible. Is this true? In fact, science began to flourish in the 16<sup>th</sup> century when the Reformation took place as people understood that God created the universe in an orderly fashion and that His creation followed a set of given rules.

This enabled people to adopt a scientific approach to investigating the world, logically contemplating certain theories in the physical realm and testing out their assumptions. This is 'operational science' where people study nature, make inferences on how things work, do experiments to test those ideas, do more experiments and draw conclusions. There is very little room for error or speculation in this process. This type of science has led to many discoveries that benefit mankind.

Scientists who believed the Bible were involved in the development of almost every branch of science including:

Ampere (1775-1836) – defined unit of electricity;  
Bacon (1561-1626) – the concept that the created world can be studied to obtain scientific knowledge;  
Boyle (1627-1691) – one of the founders of modern chemistry;  
Curie (1867-1934) – radioactivity;  
Dalton (1766-1844) – atomic theory;  
Faraday (1791-1867) – electromagnetism and electrochemistry;  
Joule (1818-1889) – defined unit of energy;  
Kelvin (1824-1907) – invented the international system of absolute temperature;  
Kepler (1571-1630) – the three laws of planetary motion;  
Maxwell (1831-1879) – electromagnetic radiation which shows that electricity, magnetism, and light are different manifestations of the same phenomenon;  
Mercator (1512-1594) – invented the two-dimensional map of the globe with latitude and longitude;  
Newton (1643-1727) – gravity;  
Pascal (1623-1662) – pressure at any point in a fluid

is equal in all directions;  
Pasteur (1822-1895) – principles of vaccination, microbial fermentation and pasteurization; to name a few.

When scientific theories can be tested and validated in this manner, we stand on very solid ground. Over the years we have tried to apply this scientific method in the physical realm by postulating theories or ideas in all sorts of other non-physical realms ranging from politics, theology, psychology, sociology, to origins, etc.

The problem, though, is that not all these theories or ideas can be tested – some because the subject being studied does not always follow fixed rules; or the 'rules' are assumptions and, therefore, not really 'fixed'; or the events took place in the past and cannot be duplicated; and/or we do not really know what conditions in the past were like – were they exactly the same as conditions in the present and/or did changes occur uniformly over time, or did changes take place suddenly? Some because the events will take place in the future and no one except God really knows what will happen – unpredictable circumstances; many because the events being studied are based on human behaviour which are not necessarily logical;

Historical or forensic science is where people study nature today, make inferences on how things worked in the past or will work in the future, and draw conclusions based on certain assumptions.

The respect for science earned by the success of operational science has made people believe that the claims of historical science are as authoritative. They are not. However, some scientific theories (or forensic science conclusions) have captured the imagination of many and even though they cannot be tested, are accepted as being the truth.

When these untested theories clash with Christian beliefs, as written in Scripture, it is claimed that Christians are ignoring science.

In actual fact, many of these 'scientific' theories or ideas start with the premise that there can be no external or unnatural causes, only natural causes can be considered. Christian faith is based on the supernatural – God, an external force intervenes in nature. Therefore, it is logical that these two approaches will clash.

But it should be noted that it is not a question of science against Christianity, nor that Christians are ignoring science. Christians have no problem with operational science.

Christians, however, cannot agree with untested conclusions based on the assumption that there is no God and no external supernatural force that created the universe.

## THE CHALLENGES OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

By Harn Yawnghwe

The Great Tumulus at Vergina in Greece contains three Royal Tombs – I, II, and III, and a *Heroori*, shrine dedicated to a hero, next to Tomb I.

In 1977 and 1978, two male skeletons were excavated in Royal Tombs I and II at Vergina. Tomb I had been looted and contained the incomplete bones of a male, a female, and an infant. Who they were was a mystery. Historians, archaeologists, and physical anthropologists, who studied the tombs and their contents concluded that the *Heroori* was dedicated to King Philip II, who was the father of Alexander the Great. Philip II was assassinated in 339 BC.

They also agreed that Tomb II belonged to King Philip II. It was discovered unlooted and contained a rich array of grave goods, two golden larnakes (each with cremated human remains inside) and armour

with a cuirass, a helmet, and a shield. Tomb III has a façade strikingly similar to Tomb II and scholars also unanimously agree that it belongs to Alexander the Great's son.

In 2015, scientists using modern forensic techniques examined the skeletal materials of Tomb I. They found that the male was around 45 years old, the female 18, and the infant was a newborn. The male displays a conspicuous case of knee ankylosis that is conclusive evidence of lameness. Right through the overgrowth of the knee, there is a hole. There are no obvious signs that are characteristic of infection and osteomyelitis. This evidence indicates that the injury was likely caused by a severe penetrating wound to the knee, which resulted in an active inflammatory process years before death.

Ancient literary sources describe how Philip II received such a severe lance wound through his leg that his horse was killed by it, and he became lame. Based on Philip II's lameness, scholars now conclude that one occupant of Tomb I is Philip II. They consider the knee ankylosis and the hole as conclusive evidence of lameness which tied perfectly with the historical evidence of the spear that pierced Philip's leg.

Literary sources also indicate that Philip's wife Cleopatra gave birth a few days before Philip's assassination, and that Cleopatra and her child were murdered soon after. The baby's skeleton in Tomb I confirms that the female occupant had died soon after childbirth. Therefore, scholars now believe that Philip II, his wife Cleopatra, and their newborn child are the occupants of Tomb I. They now also believe that King Arrhidaeus – elder half-brother of Alexander the Great and Eurydice, his wife, are the occupants of Tomb II. This shows how forensic science is imprecise and can change with new evidence. Whereas the Word of God does not change.





# Humour



*Mother* (teaching her son arithmetic)- “Now take the Smith family- there’s mummy, daddy, and the baby. How many does that make? *Bright son* “Two and one to carry.”

Johnny was very proud of his mangy mutt. He was playing with it, when a passing gentleman stopped and asked Johnny:

“What kind of a dog is that, sonny?”

“He’s a police dog, sir! The boy replied.

“What a police dog? He doesn’t look like one.”

“Oh, I know it,” was Johnny’s answer, ‘but you see, sir, he’s in the secret service!”

“Are caterpillars good to eat?” asked little Tommy at the dinner table.

“No,” said his father; “what makes you ask a question like that while we are eating?”

“You had one on your lettuce, but it’s gone now,” replied Tommy.

Dorothy, the little daughter of a tire salesman, had seen triplets for the first time.

“Oh, mother,” she cried on returning home, “what do you think I saw today?”

“I can’t imagine, dear. What?”

“A lady that had twins – and a spare.”

*Billie* (who had eaten his apple)- “Let’s play Adam and Eve.”

*Pattie* – “How do we do that?”

*Billie*- “You tempt me to eat your apple and I’ll give in.”

Little Mary was left to fix lunch, and when the mother returned with a friend, she noticed that Mary had the tea strained. “Did you find the lost strainer?” Mother asked.

“No, Mother, I couldn’t, so I used the fly swatter,” Mary replied.

Mother nearly swooned, so Mary added: “Don’t get excited, Mother, I used the old on.”

The boy hurried home to his father with an an-

nouncement.

“Me and Joe Peck had a fight today.”

The father nodded gravely.

“Mr. Peck has already called me about it.”

The little boys face brightened.

“Gee, Pop I hope you did as well as I did!”

Mother was warning little Nancy about being careful crossing streets.

“Oh, don’t worry,” the child assured her mother, “I always wait for the empty space to come by.”

A six-year-old youngster had just seen his first football game. The feature that caught his chief approval became evident when he concluded his prayers that night with:

God bless mama,

God bless papa,

God bless Freddie,

Rah! Rah! Ray!

Two small boys were out hunting in the woods and one of them stopped and picked up a chestnut burr, “Tommy!” he called excitedly. “Come here! I found a porcupine egg!”

*Mother* – “Why are you sitting there when you ought to be in bed?”

*Peter* – “There’s a mosquito in my room.”

*Mother* - “It hasn’t bitten you has it, darling?”

*Peter*- “No, but it came close enough for me to hear it’s propeller.”

*Marjorie* – “Will I get everything I pray for, mama?”

*Mother* – (cautiously) – Everything that’s good for you, dear.”

*Marjorie* – (Disgustedly) – “Oh what’s the use, then; I get that anyway.”

“You must not fight. Haven’t you been taught to love your enemies?”

“He’s not my enemy – he’s my brother.”

# Activity Page

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Christmas



## Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.  
Each word is only used once.



- JOY
- LORD
- MARY
- JESUS
- KINGS
- GLORY
- PEACE
- JOSEPH
- ANGELS
- CHRIST
- MANGER
- SAVIOUR
- SHEPHERDS
- BETHLEHEM