



As you have noticed I encourage you to seek Jesus, whether you have never met Him or you have known Him for years, you should seek to learn more about Him each day. If you did nothing but study Jesus every moment of your life, you would never learn all there is to know of Him. I also chose to use the symbol of the wise men seeking Jesus for a very important reason; many have read the scripture about the wise men but failed to see all of the significance of God's hand within it.

We see the story of the wise men in Matt 2:1-12; **After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'" Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.** So let's examine it a little closer.

First we read that this occurred during the rein of Herod who was not pleased with the possibility that the Messiah's birth, which had been prophesized for hundreds of year, had come true. He would not have wanted this knowledge to become widespread for it would endanger his throne and rule over his people. We can see that his agenda for Jesus was to kill him so that this threat could never become reality, just as he later would put the apostle James the elder to death, and cast Peter into prison. We also see this when he called the Magi secretly to gather information on the birth of Christ. His purpose for sending the Magi to seek out this Messiah was not one of joy but to gather information for the purpose of destroying Christ (If he truly wanted to praise and worship Jesus, he would have sent the priest and teachers and even gone himself). It is also not clear exactly who the Magi were, they were not truly Kings and most likely not wise men. It is possible they were magicians but some feel they could possible have been philosophers or possible men of wealth; but no matter who they were, there agenda was that of evil. Now is when we get to see God's hand again for He comes to these men and changes their hearts, **having been warned in a dream** (We have seen God's hand in the birth of Jesus and the instrument He used to

guide men to His Son, the star that appear above where Jesus was lying). So this is how they became known as wise, for God touched their hearts and they now desired to find Jesus for the purpose of worshipping Him and presenting Him with offerings.

Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior to whom I seek to learn more about each day. I yearn for His guidance and praise Him for every opportunity to witness in His name. Our chains of bondage, to our sins, have been broken when Jesus died on the cross for us and for all mankind (as long as we repent for those sins). Our eternal life and the chance of spending it with Jesus in heaven is the greatest gift we can receive through His resurrection by the Father and the overwhelming Grace He has for us. I believe in and only teach God's Word, the Bible, His Living Word, and do not recognize the doctrine of any man. Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior, my Salvation, my reason for each breath I take.

I believe:



Jesus Christ is the Son of God and our Lord and Savior (Matt 4:3)



In the Holy Trinity; the Father; the Son; and the Holy Spirit (Matt 28:19). I also believe the Holy Spirit is a gift from God, who fills the hearts of believers in Jesus and guides us so that we can be closer and understand what Jesus desires of us (Mark 1:8).



Jesus was born to a virgin and is the very essence of God (Matt 1:23), He lived to experience what we go through, faced temptation just as we do (Matt 4:1-11), was crucified, was resurrected on the third day (Matt 20:18), ascended into Heaven (Luke 24:51) and is coming again to bring us to be with Him in Heaven (Rev 22:12). He also mediates for us to the Father and that no one goes to the Father except through Jesus (John 14:6).



Jesus became man so that He could die for the cleansing of our Sins, the Sacrificial Lamb (Matt 1:21)



We must repent for the forgiveness of our Sins and though we cannot earn our way to Heaven (Luke 24:47), in comes though the Grace of God and our Faith in Jesus; that works are critical and required because a Faith without works is a dead faith. (James 2:14-24)



In the new covenant with God and his people (Heb 9:15)



In the death and resurrection of Jesus so that we may have eternal Life and that all men have eternal life, there are two locations where that eternal life will exist, one in the presence of Jesus in heaven, the other a lonely, agonizing lie without Jesus, in hell. (2 John 5:11-25. Matt 25:44-46)



The Bible is God's Living Word (Heb 4:12)



In the sacraments of Baptism and Communion and that the gift of the Body and Blood of Jesus can be experienced as often as you desire. (1 Cor 11:23-26)



The Church Head is Jesus Christ and we are to put Him first in our lives (Eph 5:22-27)



I believe that God gives us all of the gifts that we have and we should use those gifts to further His kingdom. We also are to give credit where it is due by directing all of the Praise and Glory to the Father and the Son. (1 Peter 4)



As Christians we are not merely to Believe, but are to learn more of Jesus each day, follow God's Word, intercede for others through prayer, and live our lives as Jesus has taught us too.

All the Praise and Glory to the Father and the Son

Pastor Scott Jones