

as loving "wine and oil," things associated with bodily pleasure. As Christians we are to focus upon the spiritual, not the physical (Colossians 3:2).

Happiness rests upon contentment. Paul tells Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:6 "But godliness with contentment is great gain." One blessing that comes from contentment is an indescribable happiness which cannot be easily subverted. On the other hand, pleasure is often driven by boredom or being malcontent. When we are malcontent we seek for something to stimulate our senses so as to create bodily pleasure. We simply end up unsatisfied after the experience has ended, or craving more in an addictive like behavior. Solomon

experienced this as recorded in Ecclesiastes 2:1 "I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity." Proverbs 14:13 states, "Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness." Let us learn contentment if we desire to be happy.

Happiness is satisfied with "clean fun." It is interesting that the word "fun" is not in the Bible. We do find, however, that God "gives us richly all things to enjoy" (1 Timothy 6:17). In that regard, God's gifts are pure and unadulterated. James 1:17 states, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of

lights, with whom is no variable-ness, neither shadow of turning." On the other hand, pleasure often delves into sinfulness. Paul spoke to Timothy of a time when men would be "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God" (2 Timothy 3:4) and the Hebrew writer spoke of Moses who chose not to "enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season" (Hebrews 11:25). Sinful activities may produce pleasure but ultimately provide no lasting happiness.

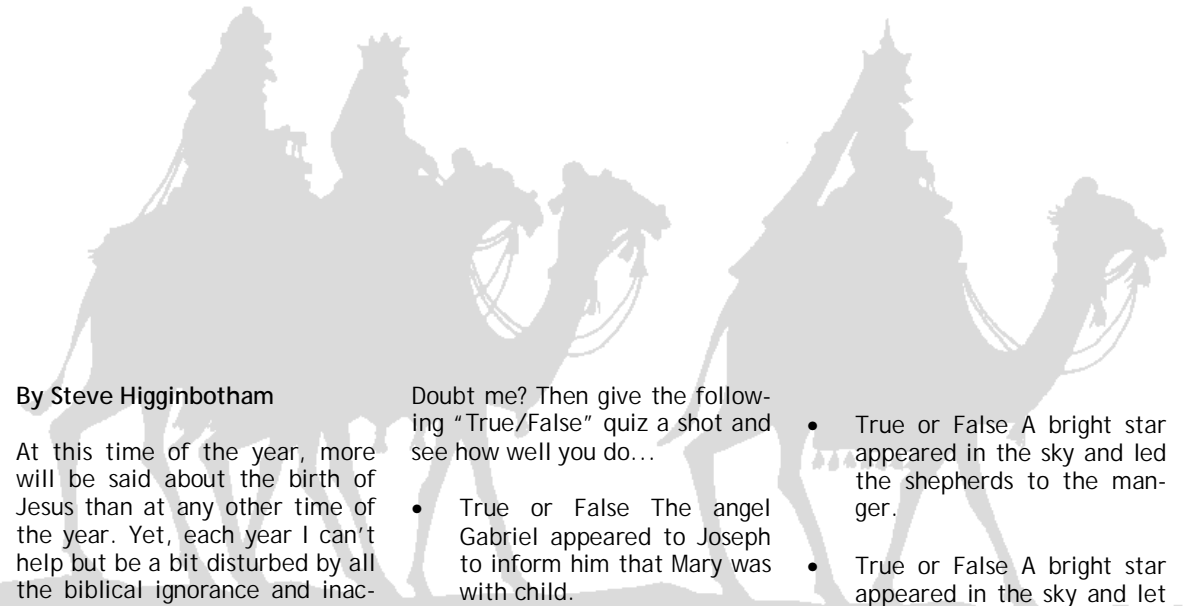
Let's resolve to seek happiness regardless of our circumstances, to base our happiness upon contentment, and to enjoy the good things God has given while shunning sin in our lives. By so doing, we can avoid confusing pleasure with happiness. ~

# NAVARRE MESSENGER

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## The Birth of Jesus Was As Follows...



By Steve Higginbotham

At this time of the year, more will be said about the birth of Jesus than at any other time of the year. Yet, each year I can't help but be a bit disturbed by all the biblical ignorance and inaccuracies associated with the birth of our Savior. When it comes to one of the most fundamental tenants of Christianity, the incarnation of Jesus, and one of the most pivotal historical events that ever occurred, I find that many cannot discern between fact and fiction. As fundamental as the birth of Jesus is, people do not really know the account of his birth as well as one might think.

Doubt me? Then give the following "True/False" quiz a shot and see how well you do...

- True or False The angel Gabriel appeared to Joseph to inform him that Mary was with child.
- True or False The Bible says that three wise men came to the manger to worship and give gifts to Jesus.
- True or False The Bible says that an unknown number of wise men came to the manger to worship Jesus.
- True or False The wise men were kings from the Orient.
- True or False A bright star appeared in the sky and led the shepherds to the manger.
- True or False A bright star appeared in the sky and let the wise men to the manger.
- True or False The shepherds and the wise men were present on the night of Jesus' birth.
- True or False The translation of the word, "Immanuel" is "Savior."
- True or False Jesus was born

We meet on James M Harvell Rd next to the public library in Navarre. Call for directions and more information (850) 939-8109



### Assembly Schedule Sunday

Bible Class for all ages \_\_\_ 9:00 AM  
Morning Worship Service \_\_\_ 10:00 AM  
Evening Worship Service \_\_\_ 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Bible Class for all ages \_\_\_ 7:00 PM

### VISITORS ARE WELCOME!

If you know of someone who would like to receive this publication, please let us know.

For a free Bible correspondence course by mail, call us.

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in Jerusalem.

- True or False An innkeeper told Mary and Joseph that there was no room in the inn, thus Jesus was born in a manger.

Okay, so how well did you do? If you answered any of the questions with a "True," you were mistaken. Every statement is false for one reason or another. Open your Bible and check it for yourself.

What I have discovered through the years is that it is surprisingly easy for us to believe as fact, what is in reality, fiction. Furthermore, this "fiction" is sometimes propagated by religion.

How many church lawns and "Christmas" re-enactments will portray a nativity scene which inaccurately portrays the biblical account?

But now here's my point: If we can be misinformed about something as fundamental as the birth of Jesus, what's to make us think we cannot be misled regarding other religious matters?

Friends, make sure your faith is not based on what others have told you is true, but rather make sure your faith is based on what you know to be true from your own personal study. Let the "fiction" you see perpetuated on church lawns and in church pageants this holiday season be a reminder and a warning to you to do your own Bible study, and to never be content with what others say.

"Prove all things; Hold fast what is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21).~

## Prophecies Fulfilled at Jesus' Birth

### GOD WOULD COME TO EARTH—BORN OF A VIRGIN

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. 700 B.C.

Matthew 1:20-23 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" --which means, "God with us."

### FROM THE HOUSE OF JUDAH

Isaiah 37:31 Once more a remnant of the house of Judah will take root below and bear fruit above. 700 B.C.

Matthew 1:1-2, 16 [1] A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son [descendant] of David, the son of Abraham: [2] Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob

the father of Judah and his brothers, [16] and [a later] Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

### FROM THE HOUSE OF DAVID

Isaiah 16:5 In love a throne will be established; in faithfulness a man will sit on it--one from the house of David--one who in judging seeks justice and speeds the cause of righteousness. 700 B.C.

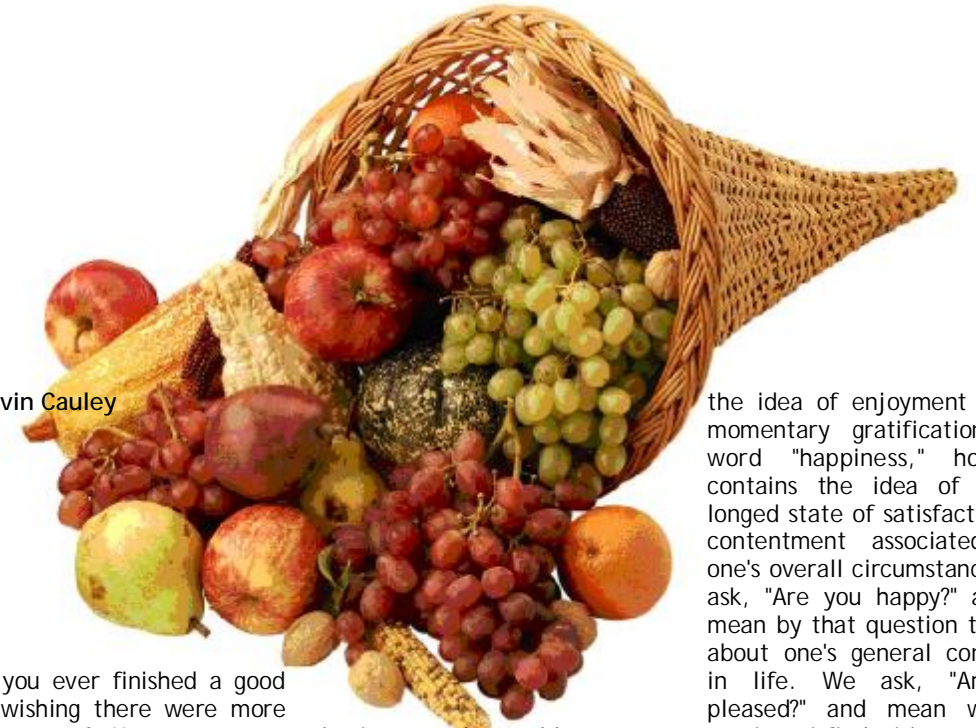
Matthew 1:1-2A, 6, 16 [1] A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham: [2] Abraham was the father of Isaac, ... [6] and Jesse the father of King David. [16] and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

### BORN IN BETHLEHEM EPH-RATHAH

Micah 5:2 But you, Bethlehem Ephrata, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. 700 B.C.

Matthew 2:1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem. ~ (There are more...)

## Confusing Pleasure with Happiness



By Kevin Cauley

Have you ever finished a good book wishing there were more to the story? Have you ever watched a movie leaving the theater unsatisfied? Perhaps after a good meal you've wished there were more to come. Such things clearly provide us with momentary pleasure, but our desire for more belies our unhappiness. Why are we so unhappy in our society today? We are the most prosperous nation on the earth yet one out of every four individuals in our nation has some kind of depression. What are we doing wrong?

Are we confusing pleasure with happiness? Many feel that their personal happiness rests upon

having one pleasurable moment after another. They reason that they simply aren't happy unless each moment is filled with pleasure. We need to stop thinking this way and look at happiness differently. Happiness does not depend merely upon having pleasurable moments, but rather, upon whether or not we are content or satisfied with the moments that come our way. In other words, I don't have to feel pleasure from something in order to be happy. Is this a strange concept to you?

The word "pleasure" connotes

the idea of enjoyment due to momentary gratification. The word "happiness," however, contains the idea of a prolonged state of satisfaction and contentment associated with one's overall circumstances. We ask, "Are you happy?" and we mean by that question to know about one's general conditions in life. We ask, "Are you pleased?" and mean whether one is satisfied with a particular item.

Happiness is a state of mind. We can be happy regardless of the situation we are in. Paul said in Philippians 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, rejoice." We can control our state of mind by focusing upon happy things. Pleasure, however, is a feeling experienced in the body. The Proverbs writer said, "He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich" (Proverbs 21:17). The Hebrew parallel here indicates that loving pleasure is the same