

# The Old Paths

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## “Where Is Jesus?”

Jarrod Jacobs

Do we remember the hype and excitement of December 25, 2006? After Thanksgiving day 2006, we were treated to numerous billboards, TV and radio ads, etc. which reminded us to remember the “reason for the season.” Beginning December 26<sup>th</sup>, it has been very hard for me to find any ads, reminders, or any type of display reminding me of the celebration of the “season” that seemed so important to religious folks for the majority of December. What happened to Jesus?

It seems to me that if folks are that excited about the event of the Christ-child’s birth, His life ought to produce that much, if not more excitement with these people. Sadly, this doesn’t seem to be the case! Many are ready and willing to look upon that “babe in the manger” as He coos and cries in the stable. Yet, the number of people interested in Him dwindles rapidly when we look for folks ready to follow the adult “to the cross”! Why is this? Where is Jesus?

So we all understand, I do not believe Jesus was born on December 25<sup>th</sup>. Biblical evidence suggests another time. Furthermore, I do not celebrate any day as “Jesus’ birthday” with associated worship services, for Jesus never told us to celebrate His birth. Some folks will reason,

“Since we don’t know the exact day of His birth, December 25<sup>th</sup> is as good a day as any to remember His birth if it gets folks to think about Christ.” Such statements as that declare that folks either have not read the Bible, or they just do not care to listen to what Christ said. Christ and His apostles continually emphasized His death, burial, and resurrection, not His birth (Matt. 26:26-29; Jn. 18:37; Acts 2:42, 20:7; Rom. 6:3-6; I Cor. 15:1-4; etc.). At the same time, I cannot help but note the inconsistency in folks when the bulk of our population claims to love Jesus and wants to celebrate His birth, and yet even now, many have turned back to the way they were acting before Thanksgiving! Am I the only one who sees this hypocrisy? Where is Jesus?

Many in society are satisfied to keep Jesus as a little baby in the manger. They are satisfied to get Jesus “out of the box” once a year, place the baby upon the mantle, or TV, and then “put Him back” when they are ready to party-down in the new year! Shame on us for having no more respect for the Lord than that!

Yes, I know Jesus could not have died for us had He not been born into this world; yet when we listen to Jesus, He tells Pilate, *“To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world...”* In other words, “I was born to die” (Jn. 18:37)! Let us listen to Him and follow Jesus, not to the manger, but to

the cross (Matt. 10:38). Let us not follow the shepherds to the barn, but follow the “chief shepherd” (I Pet. 5:4) to Heaven (I Pet. 2:22; Heb. 6:20, 10:19-20; Acts 7:56). It is a waste of time to follow the wise men to the house (Matt. 2:12)! Let us be wise men and follow the Lord’s footsteps wherever He goes as He teaches us how to be true disciples of His (I Pet. 2:21; Jn. 8:31-32; I Cor. 15:58; Col. 3:17).

Thus, we return to the question in our title, “Where is Jesus?” Jesus is not to be found in the lives of the bulk of our population! We know this to be true based upon the observations made above, as well as our observations of man’s inhumanity to man on a daily basis. Truly, God does not want His creation to be cruel and hate each other (Jas. 3:9-20; I Jn. 4:20). How then can we treat one another the way we do? It is because the bulk of our population is satisfied to keep Jesus “in the manger” instead of allowing Him access into their hearts and lives.

How do we allow Jesus that kind of access? First, understand it is more than just saying the words! Jesus told folks, *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven”* (Matt. 7:21). Therefore, it takes more than simply speaking a word or a prayer, and saying, “Jesus come into my heart.” It demands action upon our part! We must believe that He is the son of God (Jn. 8:24; Rom. 10:17), and we must obey what He says (Jn. 14:15; Rom. 10:16; Jas. 2:24, 26)! “Where is Jesus?” He is not in a manger, or a stable, but is in Heaven, wanting mankind to hear, believe, and obey Him (Mk. 16:15-16; II Cor. 6:2)!

## “There’s Power In The Blood”

Jarrold Jacobs

**W**ould you be free from your burden of sin? There’s power in the blood! This song is well-known to those of us at Southside, and I am sure many thousands have sung this song of praise to God through the years. (Our current songbook, Hymns For Worship, has it listed as song #276.) Have we ever thought about all that Christ’s blood accomplished on Calvary? Knowing that the songs we sing should teach us (Col. 3:16), I think it would be good for us to look at this song, and learn some spiritual lessons.

### We Can Be Victorious Over Evil

As a result of the shed blood of Christ, we may be victorious over Satan and evil while upon this earth. The Bible teaches that when one is drawn away by his lusts, sin is the result, and death is sin’s end (Jas. 1:14-15). Christ shed His blood so we could break free from the bondage of sin. *“But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness”* (Rom. 6:17-18). When one renders obedience to God’s will (Rom. 6:3-4), he comes in contact with the cleansing effect of Christ’s blood in baptism, and is made free from sin! This is just what Jesus taught the Pharisees when He said, *“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed”* (Jn. 8:36).

### We Can Be Whiter Than Snow

Isaiah records, *“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it”* (Isa. 1:18-20). Our souls which were once blackened by sin, can become clean when the blood is applied (Rev. 1:5)! There is great and glorious power in the blood!

### We Can Live Daily For Jesus

Only those who are in a covenant relationship with God can live daily for Jesus. Just performing good, “moral” acts will not get one into Heaven. We must be washed in the blood. After doing this, we must live for Jesus. If this is not true, then why is the command to live faithfully to God directed to Christians? Read Philippians 4:8, and see those who are subject to those commands. In I Corinthians 15:58, Paul says, *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”* Do we want to live daily for Jesus? We must first be washed in the blood. God will not fellowship darkness (I Jn. 1:5-7). There-

fore wash (Acts 22:16; Rev. 1:5), and become whiter than snow, so you can be a Christian!

### “There’s Power In The Blood”

#### Verse 1

“Would you be free from your burden of sin? There’s power in the blood!  
Would you o’er evil a victory win?  
There’s wonderful power in the blood!

#### Verse 2

Would you be free from you passion and pride? There’s power in the blood!  
Come for a cleansing to Calvary’s tide.  
There’s wonderful power in the blood!

#### Verse 3

Would you be whiter, much whiter than snow? There’s power in the blood!  
Sin-stains are lost in its life giving flow.  
There’s wonderful power in the blood!

#### Verse 4

Would you do service for Jesus your King? There’s power in the blood!  
Would you live daily His praises to sing? There’s wonderful power in the blood!

#### Chorus:

There is power, power, wonder working power in the blood of the Lamb.  
There is power, power, wonder working power in the precious blood of the Lamb!”

(By: L.E. Jones)

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[www.southside-churchofchrist.com](http://www.southside-churchofchrist.com)



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Come and meet with the church at Southside.

Our address: 2920 New Hartford Rd. Owensboro, KY 42303

#### Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Bible Study \_\_\_\_\_ 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship \_\_\_\_\_ 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship \_\_\_\_\_ 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study \_\_\_\_\_ 7:00 p.m.

“What Is Written”: Sunday (12:30 p.m.) on 94.7 & 100.5 FM.

Call: 683-9246 (WBIO) with your Bible questions.

“The Ancient Landmark”: airs Monday (9 p.m.), Wednesday (5 p.m.), & Thursday (11 p.m.) on channel 52.

Website: [www.southside-churchofchrist.com](http://www.southside-churchofchrist.com) (Updated weekly!)

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