

# GraceNotes

Grace Christian Church  
1713 E. Sevier Avenue  
Kingsport, TN 37664  
(423) 247-2691

A Monthly Newsletter of Grace Christian Church



December 2025  
Vol. 7, No. 12

Dr. J. Edward Clevinger, Minister

[www.gracechristiankingsport.com](http://www.gracechristiankingsport.com)

## GROWING IN GRACE

### “The Christmas Miracle” (or “Catching Up”)

In his 1947 book, Miracles, C.S. Lewis wrote, “The Christmas Story is precisely the story of one grand miracle. The central miracle asserted by Christians is the Incarnation.” Indeed, the Incarnation is the ‘ground zero’ of Christmas. Christmas is a miracle, pure and simple.

Too often Christians retreat from the “miracle” designation because of secular pressure to keep explanations under the rubric of ‘science’. In so doing, Christians are not being smart as they might assume but are actually weakening their witness about their faith. It is important to remember that early scientists such as Isaac Newton, Roger Bacon, and Nicholas Copernicus reckoned that science was a way of gaining understanding of God’s creation, not an approach that was competitive with faith. Moreover, they brought science under the greater rubric of ‘faith’. In other words, science was not a substitute for faith but a servant of faith.

To be sure, some scientists have been led to faith by their research. A recent 2024 example is the South Korean man, YougHoon Kim, whose IQ was scored at 276 – the highest in recorded history. Kim says, “Christ is my logic,” and he confesses, “I believed that Jesus Christ is God – the way, the truth, and the life....The Bible doesn’t need to be updated; the world needs to catch up” (Good Gospel Channel, 7-5-2025). It is the Church that God has commissioned to help the world “catch up.”

So many today think of God and His Word (The Bible) as needing to “catch up” to the world. Truth be told, all the world’s problems – even the ‘human condition’ itself, that includes fallenness – could be solved by “catching up” to God. Therein lies the dilemma. The fall was so great that humanity has no way to “catch up.” That’s the meaning of man’s fallen condition as one of ‘total depravity.’ It is impossible for man to recover what he fell from. It would require a miracle. Then came Christmas.

The miracle of Christmas was God’s coming down to lift us up, raise us up, catch us up to Him. For those with eyes to see, ears to hear, minds to know, and hearts to understand, it’s only logical. Nothing else makes sense. Perhaps, miracles should be thought of, not so much as exceptions to the rule, but as the rule of exception. Exception must rule when man has no more options. And we serve the ‘God of Exception.’ Christmas makes it clear. It can be heard in the angel’s response to Mary’s, “*How can this be?*” (Luke 1:34) bewilderment: “*Nothing will be impossible with God*” (Luke 1:37).

-continued-