Saved from Our Sin Matthew 1:18-25, Pew Bible p. 807 December 15, 2024

I. Mary Found to Be Pregnant (V. 18-19)

- A. We know God can save us from sin because He is greater than our <u>ability</u>.
- B. We know God can save us from sin because He is greater than our <u>situation</u>.

II. Joseph's Response (V. 20-25)

- A. We know God can save us from sin because He says so.
- B. We know God can save us from sin because His Word never fails.

Group Discussion Questions

- 1. Read Matthew 1:18-25
- 2. How rich, powerful, or influential was Mary to change what people thought about her pregnancy? What does that say about how God calls people to do great things?
- 3. What about Mary or Joseph's situation is not ideal? What did God do to take care of them in their difficult situation? What does that tell us about God's ability to save?
- 4. What does verse 21 say is the reason Jesus was sent to earth? How has modern America changed the Christmas to mean something else? What are some ways you can preserve the true meaning?
- 5. What does the angel's obedience to scripture in verse 22 tell us about the role of the Bible in the Christmas story? How can we honor the Bible in our celebration of Christmas today?
- 6. Do you think salvation from sins is a popular Christmas theme today or not? Why?
- 7. Pray for our church to celebrate the Christmas with a biblical knowledge of the world's spiritual history. Come to the church prayer meeting this Wednesday from 6:00-6:30 pm in the Worship Center lobby.

Prayer Guide for Sunday, December 15



John 4:21-24 (ESV)

²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting:

• PRAYING for our recent visitors and those attending our Discover class to take steps towards salvation and membership.

Pray for Our Church Family Needs:

- PRAY for missions and missionaries:
 Andy & Lindsay M. in Spain; Luke P. in Maricopa, Arizona; Nathan & Becky F. in Indonesia;
 Doug & Cheryl D. in Thailand; Jules S. in Thailand; and Sylvia M. and Andrew M. at ASU West,
 Glendale, Arizona.
- PRAY for all our students: elementary school, middle school, high school, and college. No
 matter whether they are in the classroom, an online setting, or a home school setting, our
 students are forming minds that need to focus on Christ.
- PRAY for family & friends of church members who need salvation or to renew their relationship with Jesus:
 Sharon L. (children & grandchildren); Marge D. (son, Matthew); Rezwana D. (parents);
 Margaret J. (Tom & Bob); Gary & Betty B. (grandchildren & siblings); Sophia W. (husband);
 Charity M. (daughter); Kayla P. (nephew, Jordan); Michelle LaM. (son); and Debbie B. (son-in-law)
- PRAY for families who are grieving the recent loss of loved ones:

 Del M. (wife), Bonnie V. (husband), Mel A. (wife), Kasuma A. (grandnephew), Gary C. (wife),

 Darlene R. (Husband)
- PRAY for those struggling with ongoing health and other issues:
 Peggy T. (sickness), Mimi M. (hospitalization), Jeff & Linda S. (granddaughter hospitalized),
 Margaret J. (hospitalization), Johnny P. (severe back injury), Darcey S. (finding employment)
- PRAY for others that you are aware of.