



Messenger Project Newsletter

The Messenger

messengerproject.com
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A NONPROFIT CORPORATION PROMOTING THE BIBLE THROUGH THE ARTS

Messenger Project Members

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Editor-Publisher of *The Messenger*
Raymond Genovese, Treasurer
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Messenger Notes

The **Messenger** newsletter has a new design. We moved "Messenger Project Newsletter" to the top of the page, enlarging its font while reducing "The Messenger" font size. We included our website address and added our phone number as a way to contact us with questions or comments. We enlarged our logo and moved the location of the date, volume and issue. We added a tag line that describes who we are and we included the names and titles of **Messenger Project** members for identification.

Lionel De Leon sang *The Road to Emmaus* (Luke 24:13) with the worship team during the October 30th offertory at **Community Bible Church**. *The Rebellion* (Hebrews 3:15) will be performed on November 27th.

Raymond Genovese and Lionel De Leon have been fine-tuning the arrangement for *The Lord is my Shepherd* (Psalm 23) and hope to have it finished within a couple of weeks. As soon as it is completed, we will post it on our website in mp3 format.

Christian Schisms

Circa 33 After the resurrection of Jesus, a new understanding of Judaism became Christianity. The first Christians were Jews who saw Jesus as the promised Messiah (Christ). Judaism didn't accept Jesus as the Son of God nor the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). "The Lord our God is one" has a numerical meaning to Jews and a unity meaning to Christians.

The schism between Christians and Jews grew into the Inquisition and centuries of anti-Semitism (In 2000, Pope John Paul II left a handwritten note at Israel's Western Wall expressing regret for Christian anti-Semitism).

325 The Nicene Creed (and later the canonization of the Bible) was established to combat the heresies of Buddhist/Hindu-influenced Gnosticism that was becoming prominent in the early centuries.

431 Nestorians split from the Catholic Church over Jesus' personage, believing that he existed as two persons (divine and human). The split also occurred over the interpretation of the Virgin Mary, who was called the Mother of God rather than the Mother of Christ.

451 Monophysites split from the church, believing that Jesus was fully divine (denying his humanity).

1054 The Great Schism arose between the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Church over jurisdiction, the Eucharist and the Trinity. Catholics gave supreme authority to the pope in Rome, believed that the bread and wine of communion became the actual body and blood of Christ and that the Holy Spirit came from the Father *and* the Son. Eastern Orthodoxy didn't grant supremacy to the pope, believed that communion was a symbolic ritual and that the Holy Spirit came from the Father *through* the Son.

1517 The Protestant Reformation began when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. The four pillars of the Reformation were that Christ is the solo intermediary between God and man, the Bible is the infallible word of God, man's faith is our only source of salvation and God's grace is the only means to our salvation.

1525 Felix Manz and Conrad Grebel formed the Anabaptists, who rejected infant baptism.

Mid 1500s John Calvin established Calvinism, whose beliefs include man's total depravity, God's election of those who are saved and damned (man has no choice), Jesus died only for the sins of those who have been chosen, chosen ones cannot resist God's grace and are therefore protected by God while living on earth.

Late 1500s Puritanism arose in an attempt to purify the Church of England from corruption and Roman Catholic influences.

1609 John Smyth established the Baptists, who believe that all authority stems from the Bible.

1640 The first U.S. Presbyterian Church was established, creating the church as a theocracy with Jesus at its head.

1690s Jakob Ammann started the Amish sect, which shuns modern technology in favor of living as closely as possible to the ways of the early church.

Late 1700s Liberal Christian Theology emerged, rejecting a literal interpretation of the Bible and the inerrancy of Scripture.

1914 The Assemblies of God formed, believing that speaking in tongues is the only sign of being baptized in the spirit.

Christianity has fractured into over 1,500 denominations with a wide variety of doctrines and beliefs. How does one know which direction to turn? Jesus said "Seek and you shall find." The Bible is a good place to start, particularly the Gospel of John. Learning about Jesus is critical to Christianity, because we can't be true "followers of Christ" unless we know him.