

The Power of Christmas  
**SUGAR RUSH**

Luke 2:1-14  
Pew Bible, page 699  
Dr. Dale Wicker

**W**e must face the sentimental sweetness of a secular Christmas or else the \_\_\_\_\_ becomes a \_\_\_\_\_.

### Bittersweet with Blue Collars

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

### Low Calorie Christmas

#### 1. The setting (vss. 1-3)

God used \_\_\_\_\_ to get Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

#### 2. The city (vss. 4-5)

Bethlehem was not really about \_\_\_\_\_; King David was really all about \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 3. The circumstances (vss. 6-7)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### 4. The significance (vss. 8-14)

We didn't ...

**From the Senior Pastor  
Dr. Dale Wicker**

**B**irthdays matter because people matter and having some way to mark the existence of a person seems like a good idea. Big, important, people seem to get more attention on their birthday.

Christmas is a birthday recognition for Jesus, the Christ. It is a good idea to celebrate and generally focus attention upon the coming of the Savior into the world.

Those who lived closer to the time of Christ had some strong opinions about him. For example:

Josephus, a Jewish historian, records that Jesus was regarded as wise. He also said that Jesus performed miracles.

Pliny the Younger, a politician, and Lucian, a satirist and celebrity said that Jesus was a powerful and revered teacher.

Tacitus, a Roman guy, and others were certain that Jesus was crucified by the Romans. He joins Josephus in being pretty sure that Jesus was resurrected from the dead.

Pliny, Josephus and Lucian, among others, wrote that Jesus was worshipped as God by the early Christians.

All of the sources I have mentioned above have said things about Jesus—in writing—and were and still are well regarded as reporters. These accounts are in addition to what is found in the Bible.

Good reasons for a birthday celebration.

Article for December 24, 2017