



THE PRINCIPAL'S PAMPHLET

by Melodie McKenzie



PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

**exists to assist parents in the covenantal education
of their children. We instruct students from a
Biblical perspective, within a confessionally
Reformed and classical framework, teaching them to
exalt Christ by pursuing truth, beauty, and goodness.**



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Dyer, Indiana

One Story

When C.S. Lewis was being drawn to Christ—even unknown to himself—he wrestled with a number of obstacles that kept him from coming for many years. On his journey from atheism through theism and finally to Christianity, one of the hindrances was his love of myths. Nearly every culture has some form of mythologies. Many of them have origin stories, and many have stories of man's grave failures followed by gods coming to earth to aid mankind. C.S. Lewis couldn't see how Christianity was any different than these other myths told by various cultures.

Thankfully, Lewis's dear friend, J.R.R. Tolkien, proposed to him that maybe the reason that Christianity seems like another story told down through the years is because it is actually the **ONE** story—the myth made fact. All through history as the story of mankind developed into many nations, there was a constant longing for meaning to life. The general revelation of God's image stamped on man's heart let him know there was more out there. The Spirit used this argument to draw Lewis's heart to Christ.¹

Romans 1:28 even tells us that those who wish to be free of God and live lives of sin struggle to free themselves from this knowledge as if they wish to rip it from their very being. History is

¹ For more on this, read Lewis's essay, "Myth Became Fact," in *God in the Dark*.

filled with cultures that try to make sense of this ingrained knowledge of God. They find that they would rather create a god made in their own image rather than the God who created them. They develop myths and legends to explain this truth. The unintended consequence of these stories is that they inadvertently point to the one true story of the one true God in creation, fall, and redemption.

Classical education seeks to train children to be able to see the truth under the façade of falsehood that society has created. If we know the truth, we can embrace it when it is seen and recoil when it has been twisted into something distinctly other. As we look at the ancient mythologies, we can see the underlying moral values and truths that are present. We can also make the links from what is true to what has been created by man.

We use some of these ancient mythologies here at Providence while also incorporating more modern stories. The Kindergarteners read a short story called "Why the Chimes Rang" and learn about giving of yourself to care for the stranger in need. In *Stone Soup*, the 1st & 2nd learn about being generous when someone comes to us for help. The 3rd & 4th enjoy how *The Magician's Nephew* mirrors the creation story and are interested in how the witch tempted Diggory. *A Christmas Carol* warns the 5th & 6th about being miserly with what you have been given. In *The*

Odyssey, there is a consistent theme of hospitality which was common for the Greeks since they had the understanding of hosting “gods in disguise.”

While each of these in itself is a small picture, the One Story is woven through the imagery of the Christian writer as well as the frosted glass of the pagan. None of these stories tells the Gospel, but they all have glimpses of how God made the world to work and what happens when things go wrong. Each of us is weaving our own story through our own lives as well. Sometimes, we mirror God the way we're meant to as when Boaz redeemed Ruth. Other times, the Lord works His purposes even in our folly like the story of Samson. This Christmas, may the one true story manifest itself in the lives of you and your family as we celebrate Christ, the myth made fact.

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory...”

John 1:14a

Sights and Sounds at Providence

- ❖ December Chapel: Rev. Ipema from Oak Glen and Divine Hope Seminary spoke to us this month. He reminded us of how God promised the prophets that one day God would bring salvation. Many, including the religious leaders, were not expecting the Messiah. However, the wisemen were actively searching for the King. The gifts they brought represented costliness, priestly offerings, and the perfume used at death. The students were challenged to follow their path by cherishing Christ in their hearts.
- ❖ Carol Sing: It is tradition to close our last day of school before Christmas with an all-school carol sing (tomorrow). Our parents and grandparents are more than welcome to join us. However, this year is just a bit different. We are avoiding gatherings of over 50 people, so we'll be caroling outside. First, we'll go to our neighboring businesses (Dutch Mill, the veterinarian, and the salon). Then, we'll walk to the back of the school and finish singing together in the pick-up circle. You are welcome to pull into the circle and join us or park in front and walk with us. We'll begin at about 2:40pm at the front of the school.

Psalm 100

- ❖ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
- ❖ Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!
- ❖ Know that the LORD, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- ❖ Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
- ❖ For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Announcements

- ❖ Field Trip: While we've had some difficulty finding places that are open right now, we do have a trip planned for the 5th – 8th grades. They'll be going to the Challenger Learning Center in Hammond. They had been scheduled last spring, but the trip was cancelled as many things were. Now, they'll get to do a lab tied into biology called "Living in Space." Here is a blurb from them about the lab:
 - "Life on board the International Space Station (ISS) is very different from life on Earth. Students will explore how living in space affects the human body and examine the methods astronauts use to protect themselves from the dangers of Low Earth Orbit. Students get to test real astronaut food during this entertaining and educational lab session."
 - We would love to have parent chaperones for this trip. If you are willing and available, the trip is on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 from 11:15am to 3:00pm. Please contact me if you'd like to drive and let me know how many can fit in your car.
- ❖ Quarantine: While we've had several families who have been out for anywhere from a few days to a couple weeks with COVID-related symptoms or positive tests results in a household member, we are grateful that the Lord has preserved us thus far. We are especially grateful for Laura's availability and willingness to substitute more than expected! It is so much better that we are still having in-person learning. This is something our whole school family longed for last spring. God is good to us—all the time.