

Masterpiece on the Wall

I read recently how the congregation of a church in Baltimore found the answer to its financial troubles on one of its walls.

And it had been “hiding” there for more than 25 years!

Someone finally recognized a piece of art hanging in the chapel as a valuable woodblock print by Albrecht Durer, dated 1493. The work shows the angel telling Mary she would give birth to God’s Son. Durer (1471 – 1528) was a German painter, printmaker, engraver, mathematician and theorist from Nuremberg.



Some members of the Baltimore church just couldn’t believe they had underestimated the value of the old masterpiece by Durer, saying, in effect, “If it were real, why would it be here?”

What about us?

Are we underestimating the value of the event depicted on that woodblock? Jesus isn’t hiding. The truth that God came to earth in human form is plainly announced in His word. It is reflected in our art and in our hymnbooks.

During this Christmas season, Christ’s birth in a manger in Bethlehem, and the revelation of it by the angels appearing in the night sky over Bethlehem to shepherds tending their flocks, is celebrated in musicals, plays, sermons and even in commercials.

But the significance of that good news is still neglected.

Let’s not get so wrapped up in the busy-ness of the season’s activities and programs that we miss the immeasurable worth of knowing who that Baby was. And seek to have a personal relationship with Him.

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior (Luke 1:46-47).

– Beecher Hunter