

*But set Christ apart as Lord in your hearts and always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope you possess. 1 Peter 3:15*

I was sharing with one of my friends the way I was creating trees for the Cookie Walk Craft Store. I love to create things that have a theological meaning behind them. So, my tree is made of old pages from a Bible that someone else had thrown away. It is true that the Bible had a broken spine and pages were falling out. But I was certain if I put my thinking cap on, I could come up with something meaningful that could be done with those pages. Here is the picture I sent to my friend. Notice that the word of God is hung on a tree. It reminds me that Jesus is the Word of God that was sent into the world destined to hang on the wooden cross where he would atone for the sins of the world.



My friend Martha is also a ponderer of theological thought. And she shared with me the tree she was making to honor God. Let me share with you her words shared with me.

As I see more and more advent calendars that focus on everything from herbal teas to gems to gourmet cat food it's obvious the world's focus isn't on the coming of our Savior. This year I'm making the decision to refocus on the 25 names of Jesus during Advent. I want my main tree to be a witness to my faith for those who visit our home. The red of the poinsettias shows Christ's shed blood sacrifice. The white baby's breath flowers the cleansing of sin. The green tree...new life in Christ and the gold balls heaven. The lights are a reminder of our witness in the world. Each day a different name of Jesus will be added. My prayer is that God will use the advent period to grow us as more loving more caring servants of the living God.

*"You are My witnesses declares the Lord, "And My servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe Me and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, and there will be none after Me."*

Isaiah 43:10

*Pastor Polly*