

God Wrapped Himself as a Gift for His Children

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More than 2,000 years ago, in the town of Bethlehem, mankind received the greatest gift that could ever be given. The Son of God came as the Christ child—without sin, but in every other way—wrapped in human flesh. This amazing appearance of God in our midst is so incredible because He took on the form of man and became “one of us.” The same Saviour who is able to deliver us from sin and death was—in the very beginning—our Creator. Before the mountains were brought forth, He was there. He stretched out the heavens. He designed the universe and spoke it into being. He created and breathed the breath of life into the very first man, Adam. He brought forth the first woman, Eve, to be Adam’s wife and the mother of us all. The apostle John tells us that Jesus—the living Word—was with God . . . and He was God.

As a babe, lying in a manger, He identified with the human condition. Father God chose humble beginnings for the birth of his Son and ordinary, humble conditions for the brief span of His life as a man—33 ½ years. Yet the same Anointed One lives forever in an eternal kingdom, one that can never pass away and to which we are all invited.

Here in the 21st-century, much of mankind has forgotten the sacrifice of God’s only Son, who died that we might have eternal life. That sacrifice could not have been made if the Son of God had not come to us as a tiny baby and had He not lived a perfect and sinless life, pleasing to the Father and a perfect example and source of strength for all of us. Without Him we can do nothing . . . but with God, ALL things are possible!

Today, we see the nations raging and in turmoil. While our glorious King invites our friends and neighbours into fellowship and eternal life, so many reject that invitation with anger and hostility. Not content to reject the blessings of knowing God themselves, they seem focused on preventing others from entering into a relationship with God. In recent years, through court cases and scornful diatribes, they have sought to remove from the public square any remembrance or celebration of the virgin birth, the sinless life and the sacrificial atonement of our Lord Jesus. They seek to expunge His words from public readings and His Word, the Bible, from the seats of power and influence—the courts, the legislatures and the schools.

This rejection of Christ is not new but it is being expressed with a new intensity in Canada in recent years. Even as Mary gave birth in a stable, because “there was no room in the inn,” so those who celebrate His birth today are often ridiculed by those who have “no room in their hearts” for the risen Lord. In various communities, visual displays of the nativity have been removed. In some places, the Ten Commandments have been ordered taken down from courtrooms, indicating a rejection of God’s law. Gideon Bibles, once found in almost every hotel and motel room are now missing from many. Schools, from kindergarten to university, where classes were once opened in prayer and scripture reading are now dedicated to a secular, humanistic worldview; Bible readings and Christian prayer are deemed unacceptable in public settings, even vilified as “hateful.”

It is good that our Lord has prepared us for these days. God, in His wisdom, has preserved for us, in the Bible, the wisdom and warnings given by Jesus throughout His 3 ½ years of ministry and especially in the

days shortly before His death, burial and resurrection. "In the world you shall have tribulation but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."¹ "If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you."² "He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."³ "I go to prepare a place for you . . . that where I am, there you may be also."⁴

This Christmas will be the third since the onset of covid and the oppressive mandates and edicts of governments that have tried to limit social gatherings of families, friends, churches and communities. There are many indications that further violations of personal sovereignty may be imposed on short notice in the days ahead—things like digital currency, digital ID, and social credit scores being used to reward or punish behaviours and attitudes that support or oppose government policies. Jesus told us ahead of time so that we should not be taken unawares; the Bible warns of a day coming when ". . . no man might buy or sell save he that had the mark . . ."⁵ Jesus also told us through His words to His disciples, ". . . nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in diverse places. All these *are* the beginning of sorrows, but the end is not yet . . . he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."⁶

In spite of troubles and sorrows, we can enter this Christmas season and the new year with confidence, because the King has secured our future. His promise is, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."⁷ He has plans for us, "for good and not for evil, to give us a future and a hope."⁸ With those promises, He also equips and commands us: "Make disciples of all nations."⁹ "Be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord."¹⁰

We thank God that Jesus came to earth as a baby and walked among us as a man. We thank God for the finished work of Christ on the cross. We thank Him for the future, so bright with His promises. And we thank Him that He has entrusted us with the responsibility of being His ambassadors and of shining His light in a world grown dark. In the Christian Heritage Party, we have the special privilege of shining His light in the area of politics, of exposing the works of darkness and presenting the Truth—without which our society will perish. Politics alone cannot save our nation . . . but biblical truth, presented clearly and respectfully, can soften hearts, change minds and alter history. Let's be ready and willing to offer the gifts of faith and obedience to our King in boldly proclaiming the Truth. He is worthy!

May each and every one of you enjoy a time of rest and celebration this Christmas season. Be an encouragement and a blessing to your family members and your neighbours. And look up; Jesus is coming back!

Footnotes

¹ www2.bible.com/bible/1/JHN.16.33

² www2.bible.com/bible/1/JHN.15.20

³ www2.bible.com/bible/1/JHN.11.25

⁴ www2.bible.com/bible/1/JHN.14.3

⁵ www2.bible.com/bible/1/REV.13.17

⁶ www2.bible.com/bible/1/MAT.24.KJV

⁷ www2.bible.com/bible/1/HEB.13.5

⁸ my.bible.com/bible/111/JER.29.11

⁹ my.bible.com/bible/1/MAT.28.19

¹⁰ my.bible.com/bible/1/1CO.15.58

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