

GRACE in CHRIST

DECEMBER 2000

The Gift

The Gospel of Luke describes how eternity wrapped Jesus into time:

Luke 2:7 says Mary wrapped the baby Jesus in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger.
FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN (ISAIAH 9:6A)...

Luke 23:53 says Joseph of Arimathea wrapped Jesus in linen cloths and laid Him in a tomb.
..UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN (ISAIAH 9:6B).

I can imagine how Mary must have tenderly embraced the baby Jesus.
Have you ever thought about how Joseph must have tenderly embraced the crucified Jesus?!

Jesus is *the gift* of forgiveness I embraced by faith.
This is **mercy** – Jesus receiving all that I deserve.

And an amazing transformation occurred when I embraced Jesus as my Savior...
...He rose to embrace me, and He became to me *The Gift* of life!
This is **grace** – me receiving all that Jesus is!

When I received *The Gift* of Jesus, I received the whole package.
AND OF HIS FULLNESS WE HAVE ALL RECEIVED (JOHN 1:16A)...

And God's grace continues to unveil (unwrap, if you will) the glory of *The Gift*.
...AND GRACE FOR GRACE...WE BEHELD HIS GLORY (JOHN 1:16B).

Whenever I look to *The Gift*, His glory is unveiled to and through me. This is **faith**.
Oh how Satan wants to prevent this because of his obsession to steal Christ's glory.

So, Satan tempts me to be busy with "good" efforts apart from Christ. This is **law**.
FOR THE LAW WAS GIVEN THROUGH MOSES (JOHN 1:17A)...

But when I rest in God's **grace** embrace, He lovingly reveals **truth** to me, and frees me to be me.
...BUT GRACE AND TRUTH CAME THROUGH JESUS CHRIST (JOHN 1:17B).

A foundational truth that sets people free is their new identity in Christ through the cross.
"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation," (2 Corinthians 5:17).

*Happy New Year to the staff of Christ Life Ministries.
I look forward to serving with you this year. Gregg*

*Thanks be to God for His indescribable *Gift*!
(2 Corinthians 9:15)*