

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

THE GOSPEL OF CHRISTMAS

Scripture Reading:

¹² And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; ¹³ Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. ¹⁴ And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. ¹⁶ Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting. ¹⁷ Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen (1 Timothy 1:12-17).

Introduction:

- A. The Christmas Season is an opportunity for Believers to present Christ to the world. The angel announced, “I bring you good tidings of great joy ... for unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).

- B. A father went into a toy store to buy his son a Christmas present. The salesman showed him a new educational toy. It came unassembled, but no matter how the child put the pieces together, they wouldn't fit. You see, the toy was designed to teach the child how to deal with life. Such is the predicament of man without God. He is never able to put his life together. A life without Christ is a life of futility (Anonymous).

As we celebrate Christmas, remember to Thank the Lord, Trust the Lord and Honor the Lord. Christ is Christmas – Christmas is Christ.

I. Thank The Lord (vv. 12-14)

- A. The Apostle Paul thanked Jesus Christ personally for placing him into the ministry (v. 12).

- B. The Apostle Paul was entrusted to the “Glorious Gospel of the Blessed God” (v. 11).
 - As Believers, find ways to express thanks to God as you celebrate Christmas.

- C. **Reasons to Give Thanks** (v. 13)
 - 1. **“Mercy”**: Not getting what you deserve – It is forgiveness.
 - 2. The Apostle Paul obtained mercy – He acted “ignorantly in unbelief” before becoming a Christian – He was “a Blasphemer, and a persecutor and injurious.”
 - “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost” (Titus 3:5).

- D. **“Grace”** (v. 14) – A gift we do not deserve. It is freely given by God.
 - “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph 2:8-9).

 - “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Rom 3:24).

- The motive of Grace is the infinite, compassionate love of a merciful God, but the work of Grace was the death of Christ on the Cross” – Billy Graham
- As Believers, thank God for His Grace and Mercy as you celebrate Christmas. Thank God for Salvation.

II. Trust The Lord (vv. 15-16)

A. Trust Jesus at His Word

- “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief” (v. 15).
- **It is a True Statement:**
 - “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).
 - “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10).
 - “For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).

B. The Apostle Paul’s life is the example of the Lord’s perfect patience (v. 16).

1. The Apostle Paul is the prime example that any Unbeliever, no matter how terrible his sin, can be saved – If he will believe in Christ as the Savior.
2. The Apostle Paul is the prime example that any Believer can be delivered from sin and from the power of sin, no matter how strong the enslavement is – if he will accept the power of Christ and follow Him and His Word with a renewed commitment.

C. The Apostle Paul was the pattern of longsuffering – God’s mercy can save anyone. He was a persecutor of the church and followers of Christ before his conversion (Acts 8:1-4; 9:1-2).

- “I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness” (John 12:46).
- “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet 3:9).
- God is longsuffering and not willing that anyone should perish. His desire is that all should come to repentance.
- God waited 120 years before He sent the flood. Now He has waited several thousand years before destroying the world with fire.
- The Apostle Paul declared a marvelous truth. If God could save Him, God could save anyone.
- As Believers, share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with Unbelievers. Share your testimony about Jesus as you celebrate Christmas.

III. Honor The Lord (v. 17)

A. Give God Honor and Glory

1. Praise and worship God – give Him the rightful place in every aspect of your life.
2. Magnify God so all people see Him for who He is. The Savior of all Believers.

B. Worship God Because He is the Eternal King

He is never ending and there is no end to His reign. He is the King of kings. (1 Tim 6:15; Rev 17:14; 19:16).

- Do not worship idols (1 Cor 10:14; 1 Thess 1:9; 1 John 5:21)

C. Worship God Because He is Immortal

1. God does not wear out, get tired, go to sleep, nor does He take a vacation.
2. God will never die. He is from everlasting to everlasting (Ps 90:2; 102:24, 27).

D. Worship God Because He is Invisible

Although you cannot see God, worship Him. God is a Spirit. He is Infinite (John 4:24; 2 Cor 3:17-18; Phil 3:3).

E. Worship God Because He is the Only True God

1. Go no where else. Look no where else. Forgiveness, Mercy, Grace, Love and Peace is only found in Christ Jesus.
2. God is the only true God. He is the only cure for sin through His Son Jesus Christ.
 - “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor 5:21).
 - “Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father” (Gal 1:3-4).

Conclusion:

A. A Gift of Love – Helen Steiner Rice

Christmas is a gift of love; that cannot be bought or sold
Its ours just for the asking; and its worth more than gold
And this priceless gift of Christmas is within reach of all
The Rich, The Poor, The Young and Old, The greatest and the small

B. Celebrate the true meaning of Christmas – “Jesus is the Reason for the Season.”

- “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins” (Matt 1:21).

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).