

CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF GOD'S GRACE

CHRISTMAS REALLY IS ABOUT GIFTS!

¹ Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ² "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him." ³ King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴ He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?" ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote: ⁶ 'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.'" ⁷ Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸ Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!" ⁹ After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod. **Matthew 2:1-12 NLT**

GOD THE FATHER GAVE HIS SON.

¹⁶ "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him." **John 3:16-17 NLT**

- Christmas is a **gift of grace!**
- Christmas is about God giving the ultimate gift of **Jesus Christ to the world.**
- Christmas is an **opportunity** for us to be reconciled to God and to have a **relationship** with Him.
- Christmas is not a **one-day thing**, but a **365-day thing** for God.

JESUS THE SON GAVE HIS LIFE.

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13 NLT

Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God. **Ephesians 5:2 NLT**

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. **Ephesians 2:8-9 NLT**

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 6:23 NLT**

THE HOLY SPIRIT GAVE HIMSELF.

Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." **Acts 2:38 NLT**

And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. **Ephesians 4:30 NLT**

WHAT CAN WE GIVE AS A GIFT?

- We can give our **heart**.
- We can give our **gifts**.
- We can give our **time**.
- We can give our **talents**.
- We can give our **energy**.
- We can give our **best**.

Next steps for me today...

- Give **it all to God**.
- Receive His **grace and forgiveness** today.