

The Gifts of Christmas Message #7:

A New Beginning

John 3: 1-21

Pre-Christmas Gift – Oracles of God / The Law

Romans 3: 19-20 *“Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”*

Gift #1 The Gift of Light – 5461 – The True Light that Lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Gift #2 The Gift of Glory – 1391 – who He really is.

Gift #3 The Gift of Grace – 5485 – Charis – Favor... He was overflowing with grace and giving it to those who would come to Him and ask...

Gift #4 The Gift of Truth – 225 – unveiled truths For the Law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. (John 1: 17) Jesus came to unveil the real truth!

Gift #5 The Gift of Partnership – John the Baptist became a partnering to show the world Who Jesus was.

Gift #6 The Gift of Joy – Jesus said to the Samaritan woman that she would have living water that would be springing up from within.

Gift #7 The Gift of a New Beginning

John 3: 1-22

The wonder of walking with Jesus is that those who believe on His name will become children of the Kingdom (John 1: 12) *“But as many as received Him to them gave he the power to become sons of God, even to them that believe on his name”* ***This is the New Beginning. Not just a beginning but what a beginning!***

Power – 1849 – it is the word for permission.

The Power or Permission to be adopted! We can be adopted into another family. His family! A new beginning with a new family!

The words Jesus spoke to Nicodemus are words that will never be forgotten because of their implications: “...**Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**” (vs 3)

How can we take advantage of this offer?

1. First, it must be personal (vs 2); it must go from we to me!

2. Second, it must be dramatic (vs 3-14)

- This new beginning is such a changing event that it could only be described here as a completely new birth.
- This new beginning is a miracle just as a birth is a miracle.
- This new beginning is mysterious just as the wind is mysterious.

3. Third, it requires a special knowledge and a special ability (vs 14 and 15)

- Death is coming to this life.
- Sign has come from God.
- Faith and trust is required to receive. *That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* (vs 15)

4. You must be willing to be *whosoever*! (vs 16) Who is “that whosoever”? Vs 18 “He that believeth...” But He that doeth truth cometh to that light, **that his deeds may be made manifest, **that they are wrought** in God. (vs 21)**

Wrought – 2038 – Brought to work for God! That they become employed with or in God...

The gift number 7 is a gift of belonging!

Gangs / groups / Motorcycle gangs / etc... all need to belong

The Whosoever people!

5. You must be willing to be transformed (vs 3): “...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Period!!! Therefore unless you become a new person through a new Birthing you cannot even come close enough to the kingdom of God to even see it!

- ***Then He said this is not a time of condemnation but transformation! “For God sent his son into the world not to condemn the world but that the world might be saved.” This is not a time of condemning but a time of transforming! (vs 17)***
- ***Then He said vs 21 “but he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be manifest, that they are wrought in God. (Wrought) brought to work for God!***

Hence the gift of a new beginning will not be beneficial to you or me unless we are willing to surrender to God’s will. In order to become a family member that produces and new beginning there must be surrender!

Which brings us to:

Gift # 8 The Gift of Faith – the ability to believe!

Romans 12: 3 *“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”*

Faith – 4102 – pistis – persuasion, being persuaded! The ability to be brought to a specific belief, to be able to believe...

Hebrews 11: 1 Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Romans 10:17 Faith comes by hearing