

Christ Gives

December 24, 2017

INTRODUCTION: The Gift

Luke 2:11 (All Verses from the New International Version 1984)

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

- Luke 2:17 ***When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child.***

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- Titus 3:4-5 ⁴ ***...when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,*** ⁵ ***He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,...***
- Titus 3:6-7 ⁶ ***Whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,*** ⁷ ***so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.***

- Titus 3:8 ***This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.***

CONCLUSION: Christ Gives!

- Matthew 10:8b ***...Freely you have received, freely give.***

G.P.S. Grow. Pray. Study.

Things I'd like to remember from this week's message:

Get the weekly GPS on your computer/phone/etc. by going to the site: **www.clcm-gps.com**. You can also get automatic notifications by sending a text to 81010 with the text @clcm-gps, or by subscribing through Feedly.com (or any other RSS reader).

Day 1: Read *Luke 2:11*. Where have you gotten caught up in the hype of Christmas this year? Where do you need to hold on to the hope of Christmas in the year ahead?

Day 2: Read *Luke 2:17*. What Christ gives, the Shepherds give – they share the good news, they are generous with the story they share. How did the Christmas story about Jesus’ birth become real in your life? With whom are you sharing the Jesus Christmas story this year? For whom will you pray for today to come to know Jesus in the days ahead?

Day 3: Read *Titus 3:4-5*. When Jesus Christ gives us new life. He saves us from our Christmas of *past* mistakes. He gives power for facing life in our Christmas *present*. He guides us to a Christmas *future* with Him in heaven. Such is the generous heart of our God, our Heavenly Father who sends us all that God desires to give. As you look at the power of Jesus at Christmas in your life in your past, present and towards the future, how would you describe His saving work in your life? How can you share such a great gift with others?

Day 4: Read *Titus 3:6-7*. A simple 4-word phrase in Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol* is often missed in its description of the change in Ebenezer Scrooge that Christmas Day. That 4-word phrase? **“He went to church.”** How does gathering for worship each weekend help you keep Christmas all year long? As you look at the year ahead, how will living out Paul’s words to Titus of **“being heirs having the hope of eternal life”**, influence your worship habits in the year ahead? How have you seen the overflowing generosity of Jesus at work in your life? How do you hope to see it work in the year ahead?

Day 5: Read *Titus 3:8*. When Paul says that we are to devote ourselves to doing what is good, he's saying that we need to -- like the shepherds on Christmas night -- share with others what we have seen. He's saying that we need to -- in the words of Dickens -- keep Christmas all year. What physical reminder can help you keep Christmas year-round? What value might such a Christmas approach to life bring to each day?

Day 6: Read *Matthew 10:8b*. What you get from God, you give to others. That's because one of the greatest gifts that we have received through Jesus Christ is the gift of passing it on, growing generosity, the gift of giving back, and watching God transform lives with generous hearts including our own. As you look back over the past year, what have you freely received? How has that inspired you to freely give this past year and in the year ahead?

Going Deeper:

Read the Christmas story from the Bible:

Matthew 1:18-25

Luke 2:1-20

John 1:1-17

Book: *Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ* by Tim Keller

Next Week: New Year's Eve Services on December 31 at 8 and 10:30 a.m.