

Christmas 2015

A most blessed Christmas and Happy New Year! God has been, is now, and will be forever – good to me! And God's greatest gift, the gift of Christ, makes this all possible.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.  
*John 1:1-4*

This marvelous creation was destroyed by a disobedience of man. God warned man that disobedience would mean death. And Adam and Eve disobeyed.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.  
*Romans 3:23*

God's infinite love for man promised Adam and Eve a Savior. God, throughout the Old Testament, renewed that promise that His Son would come and bear the sins of the world and live a perfect life in man's place. God promised that he would be born of a virgin... and He was! We are celebrating that promise fulfilled – Jesus was born! Jesus lived for us a perfect life! God said:

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities:  
the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.  
*Isaiah 53:5*

The poet sums up in this way:

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
Oh, come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

The message of the angels was:

Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.  
For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.  
And this shall be a sign unto you: ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes,  
lying in a manger.

The baby of Bethlehem grew up to bear our sins and be punished for those sins by our Savior's death on the cross. The human mind says this is utter nonsense, but it was proven by his glorious resurrection from the dead. He said:

I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,  
and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.  
*John 11:25-26*

Because I live, you also will live.  
*John 14:19*

Lord Jesus, who dost love me,  
Oh, spread Thy wings above me  
And shield me from alarm!  
Though evil would assail me,  
Thy mercy will not fail me:  
I rest in Thy protecting arm.

I am grateful to the Lord for the good health He has given me – and a much longer life than I ever anticipated. I pray that God will give you the joys of this Christmas and New Year season throughout eternity.

With all my love – and remember your God's love for you in Christ is far greater than any love that I can express!

Tom Petersen

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

I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.  
*John 14:6*

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.  
*Titus 3:4-7*