

December 2022

Immanuel Bible

I spend a lot of time thinking about gifts this time of year. Those shiny presents wrapped with ribbons and bows, lovingly placed beneath the Christmas tree. Gifts for others—I try to find the perfect gift for everyone on my list (and it needs to be something that I wouldn't mind getting), and gifts for myself to answer the question "What do you want for Christmas?" It's not always a simple task, as I find some people are easier to shop for than others.



Some people think Christmas is all about the trimmings. The presents under the tree, stockings hanging on the mantel, twinkling lights, peppermint candy canes and family. We know better. I've been spending time in the book of Romans of late – chapter five, verses 15 to 17 tells us of the ultimate gift. One of grace and righteousness—a free gift from the Father to us all. This gift is so much more than we deserve, and no gift we could ever give in return could match the worth of what we have received. The gift was sent, wrapped in swaddling clothes in the form of His Son, Jesus. This is what we celebrate at Christmas. And it's just the beginning of the story which continues in His death and resurrection so He could provide yet another gift—the gift of salvation for us. Thank you, Lord Jesus!

Here is a quick update on life as seen from the bookkeeper's office. November and December are great months to catch my breath, check a few projects off my to-do list (I'm really into lists). Dan and his crew have been renovating the bathrooms in the last East Side cabin—a time sensitive project as we need to use the building for retreaters in the beginning of January. A crew came and put new shingles on both of our chapels (45-degree pitch). Not a job that I would like to tackle. Along with my normal monthly tasks, the two events that I manually enter into my database, (Family Camp and His-Ability) opened on the 8th of December for next year—with immediate responses from a number of registrants.

As you wrap your gifts this Christmas, think about the baby sent with love from a Heavenly Father as a gift for your eternal salvation. Have a Merry Christmas.

Marilyn

Thank you for all you do!

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