

Christmas Day  
"The Universal Gift of Christmas for all - that must be received!"  
John 1:9-14  
December 25, 2024  
Rev. Ed Weber

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for this Christmas Day is from our Gospel reading, John 1:9-14.

**"9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."**

So far the text...

Have you ever received a Christmas gift that said "one size fits all"? Most likely it was a sports hat like a Dallas Cowboys visor. Now, just because it says that it fits all, doesn't mean that all will want to wear it, right? You may not be a Dallas Cowboys fan. You might prefer a Green Bay Packer hat, or a Minnesota Vikings hat, or a Detroit Lions hat instead. If you got this visor, you might take it to a white elephant gift exchange and try to get something that you like better, right?

Another example would be a necklace. It might be one size fits all, but it may depend on what is on the necklace as to whether you want to wear it or not. If it was a cross, then a person who has received Jesus and believes in Jesus' name would gladly wear it.

What Jesus offers to all people is truly one size that fits all. For He is THE Light of the World. Jesus is **"the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world."** And John begins his Gospel by describing what is for all people and what all people need. **"3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men."**

Jesus is THE Life. Jesus is THE Light of men. Apart from Him there is no life. Apart from Him there is only darkness – darkness of the soul, lifelessness of the soul.

Jesus offers Himself as the universal gift for all men, women and children, a one size that fits all. For all men, women and children have a universal need – a Savior of one's soul.

Our Old Testament reading from Isaiah 52, the waste places of sin in this world are told to break forth into joy and sing together. Why? Because the Lord has not only redeemed His people of Israel, but the all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

**“9 Break forth into joy, sing together, You waste places of Jerusalem! For the Lord has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. 10 The Lord has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.”**

It is a universal gift of salvation for all people. One size fits all. The Psalm for today, Psalm 98 repeats this same truth.

**“Oh, sing to the Lord a new song!  
For He has done marvelous things;  
His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.  
2 The Lord has made known His salvation;  
His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.  
3 He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;  
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.”**

Maybe a person doesn't receive a gift under the Christmas tree that one was hoping for. But, the most precious gift that is for all people comes to all people through His Word. A Bluetooth ear buds is a one size that fits all people to listen to whatever music or podcast or zoom call that you like. But through the universal hearing of the Word of God all people can receive the Good News of Christmas.

So we hear in our epistle reading from Hebrews 1:

**“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being**

**the brightness of His glory and the ex-press image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,”**

The Word, Jesus, who created the world, was made flesh and has spoken to us of the reason for His birth into our world – the reason He became flesh, like us – the reason for the season of Christmas – that by Himself He has purged our sins!

What a universal gift for all people! A truly white Christmas of the soul. Where Jesus judges us according to His righteousness! So Psalm 98 tells all the earth to shout joyfully to the Lord.

**“Let the rivers clap their hands; Let the hills be joyful together before the Lord, For He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, And the peoples with equity.”**

His one size of righteousness covers all our sizes of sin completely. For “He is full of grace and truth”.

You would think that all people who are offered this greatest gift of Christmas would gladly receive it. You would think that the world would be glad that the Savior was born in Bethlehem who brings the peace of His forgiveness and His good will to all mankind.

Yet, that is not the case. **“He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.”** Why? Asks Psalm 2 which we read earlier.

**“Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?**

**2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, 3 “Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us.”**

Why would one want to be cast away from His Anointed and the life and light He gives. All people must not throw away such a wonderful Christmas gift. Psalm 2 concludes with these words of warning.

**“Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth.**

**11 Serve the Lord with fear, And rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.”**

If one does not trust in Jesus, then one will perish in one's own way. You will kindle God's wrath against your sins. For one cannot be saved by being born a descendent of Israel, by blood that is. Or by one's flesh or will, that is by one's own efforts of works righteousness. To become a child of God is a right that is granted only by God through faith in Jesus.

**“He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:”**  
Kiss the Son in faith! Receive of His fullness our Gospel says.

**“And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”**

Jesus, the sinless Son of God kept the Law perfectly for all people. And He offers this gift of grace, of life, of light to all people whose hearts are darkened by sin and without life and hope. One size truly fits all. For His forgiveness covers all sizes of sin and makes one a child of God. Merry Christmas! Amen.

**And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)**