

Christmas Day
“God’s Christmas children!”
John 1:12-13
December 25, 2025
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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 1:12-13.

“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.”

So far the text:

Does your family like to gather around the Christmas tree and open up the gifts on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning? Or do you like to do a little of both? Open one gift on Christmas Eve and the rest on Christmas day?

My family were early Christmas morning openers. Of course, nothing got started until dad had his coffee. That always seemed to take a long time. Back then a simple nerf football was a pretty big deal. And then after church, there was time to look more closely at your gifts and enjoy them.

Well, we all started opening the gift of gifts again last night didn’t we? We heard the angel say to the shepherds:

“I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Your Christmas gift, the gift for all people, is your Savior, Christ the Lord! Your most precious gift came gift wrapped in swaddling cloths, God with us, God in the flesh, Immanuel!

He was born to you, so that you may be born again as a child of God, Christmas children of the family of God. Your Christmas present are your adoption papers.

Listen to God's amazing word from Galatians 4:

“3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. 4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”

As we look more closely at our most precious Christmas gift, our very entrance into the family of God, we see how big a deal this was! For there was in each of our lives a moment when we didn't have this gift. There was a time when we lived in bondage under the law, in the darkness of the world as children under the reign of the captivity of the condemning law.

Our Gospel reading from John 1 tells the plain truth of the dire straits that we were in.

“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.”

Our Christmas gift, the Word, the Son of God, Jesus Christ, created us...all was created through Him. Life itself comes from Him. Jesus, eternal Creator, is the Light of the world, but because of man's rebellion of sin, the intimate joy of knowing our Creator as our God was lost.

But the eternal Word revealed the Godhead's plan. To Adam and Eve the World revealed that her Seed, the Word incarnate, would crush the serpent's head. Christmas was coming!

And in the fullness of time, Jesus redeemed those who were under the law. Who are those under the law? All people without exception!

“For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

Grace and truth...that through Jesus, God in the flesh, God made peace with the world,...redeemed the world, bought it back with His most precious blood that He shed 33 years later on the cross of Calvary.

There is where our freedom was won! There is where our right to become children of God was won. For the law lost its sting of death, by Jesus' atoning death for the sins of the world.

Yes! We look at our Christmas gift anew on Good Friday and Easter morn!

And yes, this gift must be received to give you His grace and truth. It can't be taken by the will of man. John makes it clear that being born into the world doesn't make you a child of God. No! It is a right, a power granted, gifted by God almighty through faith in the virgin's son, Jesus.

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.

You who believe and are baptized have miraculously been born again...adopted into the family of God, Christmas children of God! What a gift you have received! It was not in our power to attain, but was graciously given to you by your loving Savior Jesus! He did this for you, all for you!

Look again more closely at your Christmas gift of adoption! Hear what Galatians 4 goes on to say:

"6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

The Holy Spirit is in your heart! And you can talk to your Father in heaven as your dear dad! Your dear Abba. Jesus has restored your relationship with the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. You are no longer a slave of sin under the law, but a son, a daughter and heir of God!...Through Christ! Christ alone!

You have life, new life ...now and eternally! To assure you of this life, Jesus most graciously gives you His very body and blood, in with and under the bread and wine! God in the flesh became man, true man and sacrificed His body and blood to redeem you and give you the right to be called a child of God! A Christmas -Easter child!

John the Baptist was a witness of this and now that you have heard and seen your Christmas miracle gift, you are too. With the shepherds we continue to proclaim and praise God for all we have seen and heard! Blessed Christmas children of God! Amen

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