

Christmas Day
December 25, 2022
“What a Christmas Gift for you – God Himself!” (Hebrews 1:1-3)
(Luke 2:7)
By Rev. Ed Weber

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for this Christmas Day is from our Epistle reading Hebrews 1:1-4.

“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 express 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, 4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.”

Here ends our text.

There’s a Christmas commercial that you may have seen that has stuck in my memory. I guess it did its job then, right? A couple is standing out in the snow and the man says to the woman, “I’ve got something for you.” He whistles and up comes bounding his Christmas gift for the woman he loves, an adorable dog. She seems glad to receive the gift. Then she looks at him, smiles and says, “I’ve got something for you”. She whistle too, and through the snow comes a shiny new pickup truck and he is taken aback at what an amazing gift this is. I won’t tell you the brand name, but I’ll give you a hint. It starts with a “G”.

There’s an obvious comparison happening. The commercial is suggesting that as nice as it is to have a pet dog, a brand new truck is better. Wouldn’t you want one too for the person you love?

That commercial came to mind as I thought about this text. There’s a deliberate comparison happening in the text. What is the comparison? There is a person being compared and His name starts with a “G” - God with us – Immanuel. With whom is the Incarnate God being compared? First, with all His creation on earth, and then

with the invisible creation of the angels. And in both instances, the Babe of Bethlehem is in a class all by Himself!

This is your Christmas gift “born to you this day in the city of David, a Savior” proclaimed the heavenly host. There wasn’t a whistle, but a symphony of angels giving glory to God in the highest and peace on earth goodwill towards men. What did the shepherds see? A Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths – God wrapped in the flesh in the flesh - a true Man!

So, we heard in our Gospel reading from John 1:

“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, let’s begin the comparison to see how glorious is your Christmas gift!

This humble Baby born amongst the stable animals is the Creator of all living creatures. He is the Son of God “who made the worlds” our text in Hebrews says. And as John beautifully writes:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 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, born of Mary, gives life to all creation! And He upholds “all things by the Word of His power,” says our text. There is nothing in creation greater than Jesus for He made it all, gives life to it all and sustains it all!

And He is the Heir to it all. Now, for this true Man to be the Heir, we speak of His human nature. In order that all things were put under His feet and that He was exalted over all to inherit all things, He first had to be humbled. He had to do the work that no other human being could do – live the perfect life in obedience to His Father and offer Himself as the perfect sacrifice for all people.

And this Jesus did! See how beautiful your gift from the Father is to you! Jesus chose the good always as our text says,

**“A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.
9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness;”**

As Jesus is compared to the angels, Jesus never sinned like the fallen angels did. The devil and all the demons did not love righteousness but love lawlessness and were thrown out of heaven. So, also the same is true of every human being, you and I included since the fall of Adam and Eve. We too have not loved righteousness, but have committed much lawlessness!

We have like the children of Israel in the desert made false gods of the material things and desired them instead of the one true God. We have worshipped God's created things instead of the Creator. But, Jesus never did. Though He was tempted as a true man by the devil to have all the kingdoms of the world, He told the devil:

““Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ” (Matthew 4:10)

So that when Jesus died on the cross in complete humiliation, He did it to remove all our sins, all the times we haven't loved God with all our heart, mind and soul!

Our text says these words:

“when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high”.

Purged! Reconciled us to God by removing all our guilt and lawlessness. And that is greatness of God's Christmas gift to you this day. For He gives Himself to you and takes your place on the cross and accomplishes what you could not do, nor any creature visible or invisible, human or angelic.

And having done so, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

To the Incarnate and exalted Jesus, God says, **“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;”** For Jesus is true God, the express image of the Father, the brightness of His glory. It was hidden in Jesus state of humiliation but at His resurrection and ascension Jesus revealed His full use of His divinity now according to His human nature. And He does this for you. He uses all His power in love for you, giving you His grace, love and peace.

His kingdom into which He has called you by faith in Him knows no end.

**““You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth,
And the heavens are the work of Your hands.**

**11 They will perish, but You remain;
And they will all grow old like a garment;
12 Like a cloak You will fold them up,
And they will be changed.
But You are the same,
And Your years will not fail.” (Hebrews 1:11-12)**

Amazing, simply amazing is God’s eternal gift to you of eternal life in His Kingdom of glory to come.

In humble adoration, we with the Shepherds, Mary and Joseph we ponder and keep these thoughts in our hearts and share them with all people. Yes, tell everyone like the shepherds did, “I’ve got something for you”. And then show them the beautiful Christmas gift of God in the flesh for all people. Amen! Merry Christmas.

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