



Hebrew 9:27-28

And just as it is destined for people to die once, and after this comes judgment,²⁸ so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

Are you ready for Christmas in 2021? Are you prepared to give and receive gifts to and from loved ones? Are you excited about decorating your home for all to see and enjoy? Do you find yourself anxious or lowly during this season as you think about all that needs to be done to get ready for all the food, family, and fun? Do you even find yourself anxious or discouraged as you consider the loss of loved ones, financial difficulty, tremendous health realities, and many other hurts that may be in your life today?

The Christmas season can and does bring thoughts of joyful and festive things in our lives but for so many the loss of hope, the loss of joy, and the loss of peace can make this an overwhelming time. Regardless of which category is applicable to you today, or whatever emotions you may be experiencing, consider the reality that our King has come and is coming again soon for those He has redeemed and eagerly await Him.

The aim of these devotionals is to prayerfully remind you of the glories of Christ and what this means for the believer. Our prayer is that the love of Christ will awaken you, stir you up and lift your eyes on our Awesome and Glorious God!

Be reminded each day that the sufficiency of Christ in all things, is on full display in all of creation, in the birth of Christ in His first coming, and certainly in His second coming. This is the meaning and purpose of this advent season. Faith, Joy, Love, and Peace. Are you ready?

What is Christmas really about? What is the cause for all the celebrations? Advent is more than just “the most wonderful time of the year.” Jesus Christ was born to take away our sins, to destroy the works of the devil, to make the Father known, and to prepare for His own return.

-Alistair Begg-

Colossians 1:16-18

For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, dominions, rulers, or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also the head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn (preeminent one) from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

A Word from our Pastor

"These are wonderful devotional thoughts for Advent. I believe that these devotionals will be a blessing for those who use them. May your devotionals be blessed with thoughts of His first coming and of His soon coming."

R. Kirk Kilpatrick

Pastor, LFBC

Professor Emeritus, MABTS



THE GLORIES OF CHRIST

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS 2021

JOHN 1: 1, 4, 14

December 1

2 Peter 1:3-4

³for His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and ^[b]excellence. ⁴Through these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world on account of lust.

The sufficient divine power of Jesus is the source of all we need and desire in this life of following Him as our King, Savior and Lord. He is the author of our faith in Him and is the finisher of that faith. He made dead souls alive in Christ as He effectually called us by His power, glory, and excellence. Therefore, we can be sure of our salvation, sanctification, and our ultimate glorification. So divine is He that there is no other God besides Him (Isaiah 45:5).

As believers that have become partakers of His divine nature, we must continually pursue a consecrated life to our Lord and live graciously, reverently, and obediently toward Him. This understanding will affect every area of our lives as we find comfort and joy knowing that He is our power, strength, and hope.

Christian, you are in Christ today because of the person and work of Christ. Put on Christ today, walk in Him and with Him.

If anyone is not in Christ today, consider that there is no merit of yours that will save you and there is no demerit that will disqualify from this blessed salvation. Today you can repent and believe in Jesus today as He calls you to do.

-R. H-

December 2

Is there a promise to claim or a lesson to learn? Is there a blessing to enjoy, a command to obey?

Is there a sin to avoid or a new thought to carry with me?

Adrian Rogers

Ps. 145:18 Hebrews 12:1,2. 1 Cor. 13:12. 1 John 3:2,3

You will not leave me comfortless...
You will come to me.
Run with patience the race set before...
Calling upon You in Truth, in honest plea.
You are nigh...
You will not ignore. Earthly days are dark, I do not belong -
Face to face, what glory that will be!
One day soon, my eyes and heart will truly see!
O to be like You, Christ, my Risen Lord.
To see You as You are!
Your crimson blood and blessed Hope make me pure. Waiting...
By Your loving grace I will endure.
Your Word will not fail.
Yes, you are coming again is sure!
I bow.

-J. Goins-

“Faith is strengthened not by striving after it but by learning to rest in the Faithful One”

December 3

Hebrews 10:10-17

¹⁰ By this will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all time.

¹¹ Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; ¹² but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, ¹³ waiting from that time onward UNTIL HIS ENEMIES ARE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET. ¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are ^[g]sanctified. ¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying, ¹⁶ "THIS IS THE COVENANT WHICH I WILL MAKE WITH THEM

AFTER THOSE DAYS, DECLARES THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEARTS, AND WRITE THEM ON THEIR MIND,"

He then says, ¹⁷ "AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL NO LONGER REMEMBER."

¹⁸ Now where there is forgiveness of these things, an offering for sin is no longer required.

Christian, you have been sanctified through Jesus Christ. The word "sanctified" means to "make holy" or for one to be set apart from sin for God. For those in Christ, we are now positionally holy and blameless before Him thanks to Christ's fulfilling the will of God which is best described in Ephesians 1:4-6 and 1 Thessalonians 3:13.

We also are continually being sanctified by God's will. As we were formerly slaves to unrighteousness, we became slaves to righteousness and therefore continually present ourselves to righteousness which results in our ongoing sanctification. (Romans 6:19)

As followers of Christ, we now have a perfect and complete standing before God in the righteousness of Jesus. Are you in awe of this Christ? He has

accomplished everything for us. He has paid it all and provided us with our greatest need, FORGIVENESS OF OUR SINS. Because of Him, there is no other required offering or work for this forgiveness.

Rejoice today in the glorious sin bearer, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

-R. H-

Questions of Reflection:

Do you live in a way that gives evidence of your standing with Christ?

Are you the one reading this today, that needs their sin forgiven? Do you understand your need of the Savior and Lord Jesus Christ?

Philippians 3:8-11

December 4

Is there a promise to claim or a lesson to learn? Is there a blessing to enjoy, a command to obey?

Is there a sin to avoid or a new thought to carry with me?

Adrian Rogers

Psalm 85:7-13. Leviticus 20:7,8

Clouds of darkness of the night gone by...
Giving thanks for a new day, my gift of grace -
To You, my hands are raised, my heart cries.
Yielded to my Lord, whatever in life I may face.
Wonder of wonders, how He does Love!
Peace, love, acceptance, He gives freely to me.
Abundant, fragrant, gentle as a dove,
My King, Shepherd, Jehovah M'Keddish, Him, I adore.
Together, we will walk and embrace whatever He has in store.
A new day, fresh grace...
Surrendered to You in all this day brings.
Desires of my heart to please and Love.
You, above all else, my Lord reigning above!
You created and once walked earth's sod...
Walking in peace not with a rod.
Man wanted to crown You an earthly king.
But they were blind to all that You were to bring.
Redemption, cleansing, contentment, and peace within.
My provision, Yourself, God's sacrificial Lamb, covering my sin.
Praise to You, my Lord, my Jehovah Shalom, my Living King.
To glorify You, is what my heart sings.

-J. Goins-

December 5

1 Peter 1:18-20

⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. ²⁰ For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

There is power in the blood! This precious blood of the sinless and perfect Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, redeemed (purchased) sinners from the curse of the law and bondage of sin. His perfect spotless life qualified Him to be a sacrifice for His people. His holy blood was poured out for those who by faith have received Him. He purified for Himself a people for His own possession. Does this encourage you to know that as a believer in Christ, you are a treasure of His own possession? Friends, you are and always will be in His Holy grip.

Even before the foundation of the entire world, He was chosen as a means of our redemption and given a people for His glory. Acts 2:23 reminds us that Jesus was delivered to us by the foreknowledge and predetermined plan of God. What an amazing truth of the sovereignty of God, that He set His affection on His Son and set His affection on us so that our faith and hope in Him will be revealed to us in the last day.

-R. H-

John 17:22-24

Reflection Questions:

Is your hope firmly rooted in Christ?

What other people or things do you hope in?

December 6

Is there a promise to claim or a lesson to learn? Is there a blessing to enjoy, a command to obey?

Is there a sin to avoid or a new thought to carry with me?

Adrian Rogers

1 Thes. 5:11 1 Cor. 2:14. Heb. 4:16

***“More about Jesus let me learn,
More of His holy will discern,
Spirit of God, my teacher be,
Showing the things of Christ to me”***

Blessed mercy and grace given,
From the One Who spoke and “it was so!”
Because of Your royal, crimson blood...
Carried from darkness into glorious Light!
Yes, chosen from a pure heart of Love.
Royal Master, by your abundant grace, to You, I bow.
O, the privilege to dwell forever with You above!

“Let us then approach God’s throne of grace
with confidence, so that we may receive mercy
and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

-J. Goins-

“God’s gift of Himself to us is a present we will always be unwrapping.”

December 7

John 1:14,18

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

18 No one has seen God at any time; God the only Son, who is in the ^[u]arms of the Father, He has ^[v]explained Him.

Jesus is the only begotten Son of God. Begotten means He is eternal and not created. He was and is God in His divine nature and essence. He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature (Hebrews 1:3). He is the preeminent one and the only begotten. He stepped out of heavenly and away from His throne, became flesh, and dwelt among us. The glory of God was on full display in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Colossians 1:19 says that the fullness of Godhead dwells in Christ bodily and there is no other like Him. The invisible God became visible. **“For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; (Colossians 2:9,10).**

Isn't it amazing that God in all His perfect and Holy attributes, would consider "explaining" or "interpreting Himself through Christ to a lost and dying world? The deity of Christ is a critical and essential component of the belief that one has in the LORD. This is what separates Christianity from all other forms of "religion."

As we remember His first coming as a babe in a manger on that holy night, we must with all joy anticipate His second coming. O that glorious day, O what a Glorious Christ.

-R. H.-

Questions of Reflection:

What do these passages teach us about the origins of Jesus?

Why did God become flesh and enter the world? What was the purpose?

How does God coming into the world comfort you today in the things you are facing?

December 8

Is there a promise to claim or a lesson to learn? Is there a blessing to enjoy, a command to obey?

Is there a sin to avoid or a new thought to carry with me?

Adrian Rogers

Ps. 8:3,4, 19:14, 13:1 Is. 49:14,15 James 1:17. 1 Pet. 1:7

Showered with perfect gifts from the Father of Lights.
The trial of my faith, more precious than gold.
He has not forgotten, I am always in His sight.
What a glorious gift when His face I behold.
Consider the heavens, the work of His hands...
The moon, the stars, yet mindful of man!
Spring will appear, fresh and reborn.
Beautiful gifts of nature, yet men scorn...
The Father of Lights gave the gift of His Son.
Some reject His gift given in painful Love.
My Strength, my Redeemer, Fresh Breath of the day –
I welcome Your Presence,
In my heart You will forever stay.
Gift of Love, Gift of Grace, Gift of Peace,
I am eternally held by Your strong embrace.
I bow.

J. Goins

“Lord, Can You hear Your Son’s heartbeat when You put Your ear to my chest?”

December 9

Ephesians 2:14

For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the ^[a]barrier of the dividing wall,

What is this peace that surpasses all understanding, especially as this lost world continues to seek all forms of sin to find peace?

The dividing wall in the temple partitioned off the court of the Gentiles from the areas accessible only to the Jews. Gentiles were considered extreme outcasts and the tension between themselves and the Jews lasted for thousands of years.

The Gentiles were without hope, they were alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and they were separated from Christ. In fact, in their sinful rebellion, the Gentiles did not even want the true God as referenced in Romans 1:18-26.

But Christ Himself broke down all these barriers in the lives of the Gentiles. Once they were far off but now Christ has brought them near. The Lord made them alive in Christ Jesus and by His grace through faith, the Gentiles now could be reconciled back to God. Peace with God and peace with the Jews. They now could know this peace that surpasses all understanding. Christ Himself is their peace. He is the source of this peace that they now have with God.

Do you desire peace with the Lord? As Gentiles, the peace you need is the peace that only God can provide through His Son Jesus.

Be encouraged with this verse from Oh Holy Night. "Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is Love and **His gospel is Peace**. Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, and in His name all oppression shall cease."

-R. H-

God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself because it is not there. There is no such thing. —C.S. Lewis

December 10

Is there a promise to claim or a lesson to learn? Is there a blessing to enjoy, a command to obey?

Is there a sin to avoid or a new thought to carry with me?

Adrian Rogers

Rev. 1:17. 2 Sam.22:32 Is. 9:6
Ps. 61:2 Ps. 142:3. Job. 23:10

Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I.
Come forth as gold is my cry.
You know my path, the way that I take.
You are strength for the poor, needy in distress.
My Lord will be faithful in this test.
A Refuge from the storm, a Shadow from the heat.
My Lord will be faithful, this I repeat.
"Fear not," is His Word to me, His child.
"I am the First and Last," "The Mighty God,"
"The Everlasting Father," "The Prince of Peace."
Will His power and faithfulness cease?
My Lord Jesus is alive!
I will come boldly into His throne of grace.
His peace will only be found in this Holy Place.
I bow.

J. Goins

"Lavish Love comes from lavish forgiveness." John MacArthur

December 11

Is there a promise to claim or a lesson to learn? Is there a blessing to enjoy, a command to obey?

Is there a sin to avoid or a new thought to carry with me?

Adrian Rogers

Ps. 19:1

Look up, my soul, to Your Glory above.
You came down and spilled Your unconditional Love,
From Your Holy Glory in Your heavenly sky.
Wonder of wonders why You left Your throne to die.
God became man...what a perfect redeemable plan!
My Christ Jesus, the God-Man, gave His perfect sinless blood for me.
Yes, my friend, look up, too, and offer the sinners plea.
He is the only redeemable One who has died for Thee.
Receive His cleansing forgiveness and Risen Life meant for your eternity.
Then you can look down from above from His Glory with Him.
Crucified, buried, risen, united forever with One who died on the Tree.
With eyes of faith seeing yourself in Him, being what He created you to be.
I bow

J. Goins

“God’s Gift of Himself to us is a present we will always be unwrapping!”

December 12

Revelation 1:17,18)

When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last,

A very real and common response by John in his vision of Christ is to fall at His feet. Every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess Him as Lord. We can see in Genesis 17:3 how Abram fell on His face, in Numbers 16:22, Moses and Aaron fell on their faces, in Isaiah 6:1-8, Isaiah proclaiming "Woe is me" when he saw our Lord sitting on His throne, and Ezekiel has the same response as John when he saw the glory of the Lord in Ezekiel 1:28. In awestruck wonder, can you put yourself in their place for a moment? Can you imagine being Saul/Paul in Acts 9:4?

In John's vision the glory of Christ was on full display. We can see in Revelation 1:14-16 a picture of Christ that made John fall to His feet.

We can envision a picture of Christ's holiness and His all knowingness in verse 14; we see His chastening of sin in the church through the authority in His voice in verse 15. And finally, John gives us a picture of Christ's control of church leaders, judgement on the church's enemies, and Christ's Glory in verse 16. The Lord's face was like the sun shining in its strength.

The Lord Jesus Christ came not only to take away our sins, to destroy the devil's work, and to make the Father known—to show what it was in God's power, in his holiness, in his love, in his essential being, in such a way that we might look and discover—but finally, to prepare for a second advent.

Listen to the words of Jesus himself in John 14: "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there [you] may be also."

-R. H-

Do you know Jesus Christ today? I do not mean as a figure of history. Do you know that Jesus is God Almighty? He is not the Jesus of the cults or false religions. He is the almighty God, Father, Counselor, creator of the ends of the earth, who never grows weary. And in that Bethlehem manger lay God, wiggling his toes.

Any wonder that the shepherds went out and spread the word? Any wonder that they bowed in worship before him? And when we take the message of the advent of Jesus Christ back to our society—not as some helpless wriggling infant but as a Christ who is glorified in heaven and even in our country—then once again the wisdom of our world will bow before his glory.

December 13

Is there a promise to claim or a lesson to learn? Is there a blessing to enjoy, a command to obey?

Is there a sin to avoid or a new thought to carry with me?

Adrian Rogers

John 1:7-14

Acts 16:31

It was an ordinary day when my Savior died...
Mankind walked this earth filled with lust and pride.
He carried my cross to Calvary's hill -
They drove nails in His hands and feet.
All creation heard Jesus' sinless cry as He paid my sinful bill.
They pierced His side, spit in His face.
Jesus, the God-Man died for humanity.
God the Father was pleased with the payment made.
It was an ordinary day when a way was made for man to be saved.
Thank You, dear Redeemer, for that day so long ago!
Still fresh today - When Love offered eternal Life to all who believe.
By faith, You make it so!
I bow.

J. Goins

***"More about Jesus let me learn, more of His holy will discern,
Spirit of God, my teacher be,
Showing the things of Christ to me."***

December 14

Is there a promise to claim or a lesson to learn? Is there a blessing to enjoy, a command to obey?

Is there a sin to avoid or a new thought to carry with me?

Adrian Rogers

Haggai 2:7 Matt. 24:30-31

When will Your trumpet sound?
Bethlehem's promise was fulfilled.
Now waiting for Your return still -
You will keep Your Word; I know it is True.
Coming in splendor on that day!
Watching and waiting, Come Lord Jesus without delay.
The desire of all nations will come!
Splendor of splendors, Peace will finally be...
Your nail pierced hands and feet, all men will see.
My Shepherd, God's Lamb will come...
With fire in His eyes,
King of Kings, God's Victorious Risen Son.
I bow.

J. Goins

***"Contentment is not the fulfillment of what you want,
but the realization of how much You already have.
It is realizing that God has already given me everything
I need for my present happiness."***

December 15

Colossians 1:27

To whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

This mystery truth is available only for those who are saints—true believers (1 Cor. 2:7–16). The phrase **to whom God willed to make known** clearly indicates that the mysteries are not discovered by the genius of man but are revealed by the will and act of God. It is God’s purpose that His people know this truth.

Of all the mysteries God has revealed in the New Testament, the most profound is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**. The Old Testament predicted the coming of the Messiah. But the idea that He would live in His redeemed church, made up mostly of Gentiles, was not revealed. The New Testament is clear that Christ, by the Holy Spirit, takes up permanent residence in all believers (Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; Eph. 2:22). The revelation of the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles awaited the New Testament (Eph. 3:3–6). Believers, both Jew and Gentile, now possess the surpassing riches of the indwelling Christ (John 14:23; Rom. 8:9–10; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 1:7, 17–18; 3:8–10, 16–19; Phil. 4:19).

The church is described as “the temple of the living God; just as God said, ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people’ ” (2 Cor. 6:16). Christ indwelling all believers is the source for their **hope of glory** and is the subject or theme of the gospel ministry. What makes the gospel attractive is not just that it promises present joy and help, but that it promises eternal honor, blessing, and glory. In the reality that Christ is living in the Christian is the experience of new life and hope of eternal glory. **-John MacArthur-**

December 16

Is there a promise to claim or a lesson to learn? Is there a blessing to enjoy, a command to obey?

Is there a sin to avoid or a new thought to carry with me?

Adrian Rogers

Luke 2:8 - 20

May we see Him afresh...
As the shepherds did that first Christmas morn.
Bowling, adoring the Christ child,
God of God, Light of Light,
Born of a virgin...
God came and dwelt amidst man's sinful scorn.
Man's ways are not holy, even at man's best.
He took our sin upon His sinless flesh.
Therefore, the Christ child was born.
May we see Him afresh...
Receive the fullness of His Love...to others give.
Tell the nations about the True Light,
So that they too may live.
Remember the Christ child.
Through Jesus the Christ, the Risen Lord,
God's Love, Mercy and Grace was revealed.
I bow.

J. Goins

"Our reconciliation with God is because of what was done at Calvary"

December 17

Isaiah 53:3

He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

“Man of Sorrows,” what a name
For the Son of God who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim!
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned He stood;
Sealed my pardon with His blood;
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

Guilty, vile, and helpless, we,
Spotless Lamb of God was He;
Full redemption—can it be?
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

Lifted was He to die,
“It is finished!” was His cry;
Now in heaven exalted high;
Hallelujah! what a Savior!

When He comes, our glorious King
To His kingdom us to bring,
Then anew this song we will sing,
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

December 18

Is there a promise to claim or a lesson to learn? Is there a blessing to enjoy, a command to obey?

Is there a sin to avoid or a new thought to carry with me?

Adrian Rogers

Jn. 17:20-26. Jere. 23:3,4

O glorious wonder of the night -
Prayers of my Lord Savior on His throne.
He tenderly cares for His own,
Holds them securely in His hand tight.
Creation also tells of His power and might.
O glorious wonder of the sight!
Yes, the One who spoke, and it was done,
He is my Lord Savior, God's Only Son.
Love began before time was born.
God's Son was birthed on that first Christmas morn.
He came to ransom me from sin's fall.
Christ Jesus, the God-Man was born in a manger stall.
Truth was spoken to all He warned.
He desires that man trust Him and be reborn.
His Word is true, His Love is pure,
His faithfulness and peace will eternity endure.
I bow.

J. Goins

We have great demands, but Christ has great supplies.”
C.H. Spurgeon

December 19

Is there a promise to claim or a lesson to learn? Is there a blessing to enjoy, a command to obey?

Is there a sin to avoid or a new thought to carry with me?

Adrian Rogers

Titus 3:4. 1 Jn. 4:9. 2 Cor. 9:15. Lk. 1:46,47

O the brightness of the heavens on the cold Christmas morn.
The quiet hush of the creatures waiting for celebration of the Christ child
born.

O Holy One upon the hay - My Redeemer, the Christ child did lay.
In earth's silence Christ Jesus was born.

Your Kindness and Love appeared...Today, You have lived, died, and risen...
Precious sinless child born for sinners; God's Love revealed to man of clay.

God became man for me...His life was given.

Tender newborn skin laying on the straw...

He came for one, He came for all...His flesh was pierced on Calvary Hill.
Blood filled with mercy and love spilled...manifesting the perfect Love of
God,

Through His Son when the fulness of time was come.

Unspeakable Gift, paid in full, tis done...!

My soul doth magnify, You, Holy Lord!

Rejoicing in You, my Mighty Savior, Lord Redeemer,
The Christ child...This Christmas morn.

I bow,

J. Goins

***"He which testifies these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so
come Lord Jesus."
Revelation 22:20***

December 20

Hebrews 1:3-4

³And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become so much better than the angels, to the extent that He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

Jesus Christ is the exact image of God and the radiant light that shines forth. He is God and is radiating His own glory. In 2 Corinthians 4:4, that the gods of this world have blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. It is God who allows such blindness. Jesus Christ is on full display in all creation and in the hearts of those who have regenerated by Him.

Our Lord, by His power and His own Holy nature makes a way for the forgiveness of the sin debt that is owed by each man, woman, and child. The light of Christ has shined forth in all His glory and honor. So much so that He now sits at the right hand of the Majesty on high. Although Christ has existed eternally, he was made lower than the angels yet afterward was highly exalted due to His finished work of redemption.

For this reason, also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name, which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9-11.

Have you turned from your sinful ways and turned to Christ for salvation? Have you bowed the knee to King Jesus? His second coming is drawing near so what will Jesus in all His glory say to you on that day? Professing

Christ is not just some empty words we express. Do you genuinely have a love for Christ, His word, and His people? Genuine love for God always produces obedience to His commands! You cannot legitimately say you love God if there is not obedience to His Word and His Lordship in your life! The surest evidence of salvation is a love for God that drives me to submit and yield to His will and His Word!

We know also that we are saved because God is continually at work in our lives, separating us from sin, making us holy, conforming us into the image of Jesus, and maturing us in Christian graces.

What happens when the Christian does sin? God disciplines, corrects, and even “scourges” him to turn him back into the way!

To the saved this is a sweet reminder that I belong to God, and He will not let sin have me!

God designs this loving discipline to drive us to repentance. The mark of a believer is a tender heart! He is so easily broken by the rebuke of God! He is genuinely sorry over his sin! His love for God will not allow it! So when (not if) he sins, he quickly comes clean before God!

Genuine repentance is agreeing with God over my sin and putting it away!

Are you living for God’s glory? Is the fruit of the Spirit evident in your life? Not perfectly but directionally?

Christ has made Himself known by the radiance of His glory, so I plead with you to be reconciled to Him today.

-R.H-

Ephesians 1:18

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what the hope of His calling is, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

December 21

Is there a promise to claim or a lesson to learn? Is there a blessing to enjoy, a command to obey?

Is there a sin to avoid or a new thought to carry with me?

Adrian Rogers

1 Thes. 5:11 1 Cor. 2:14. Heb. 4:16

***“More about Jesus let me learn,
More of His holy will discern,
Spirit of God, my teacher be,
Showing the things of Christ to me”***

Quote

Blessed mercy and grace given,
From the One Who spoke and “it was so!”
Because of Your royal, crimson blood...
Carried from darkness into glorious Light!
Yes, chosen from a pure heart of Love.
Royal Master, by your abundant grace, to You, I bow.
O, the privilege to dwell forever with You above!

“Let us then approach God’s throne of grace
With confidence, so that we may receive mercy
And find grace to help us in our time of need.”

-J.Goins-

“God’s gift of Himself to us is a present we will always be unwrapping.”

December 22

Ephesians 1:3,4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.

Through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ our Lord, his followers have received by grace every spiritual blessing. Christ has unleashed amazing grace that produces His righteousness in us. The glories of Christ give the Christian the positional status of being holy and blameless before Him and in Christ, we have received justification by faith which means we have been made righteous before God.

By being justified, we have been adopted into the family of God. Christian, you are now an heir of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. You have received an inheritance and your redemption has been sealed by the Holy Spirit. Even the believer's glorification is sealed when the Lord returns or calls you home, all to the praise and glory of Jesus Christ.

As we consider the undeserved and overwhelming benefits of being in Christ, we must consider that God by the riches of His grace lavished all of this on us. In the summing up of all things in Christ, God has made known these mysteries to us according to His kind intention which He purposed in Christ. Did you catch that? Christ has accomplished much for us because of God's love, kindness, and graciousness, according to His will and glory.

Christian, this Advent season is full of hope because of Christ. You are His possession now, you are in His grip, and He will never let you go. Pursue Him with a hunger and thirst like never. He is gloriously worthy of your praise. Let us worship Him in all that we do and let's also enjoy Him forever.

-R. H-

December 23

Revelation 13:7-8

Also, it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And Authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

Much of John's revelation focuses on events that would happen within the lifetime of the first-century readers who received it, but a lot of it is future oriented to the Day when Jesus will return to defeat Satan, judge the world in righteousness, and make all things new.

But our passage today carries us into the past—eternity past—to the time before the world, or anything in it, existed. God dwelled in eternity. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit lived in perfect love, harmony, and unity with one another, with a singular divine will to create a universe that displayed the glory of God.

John warns about a beast who wages war against the world, particularly the Church. The beast makes war on the saints and conquers them. Everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain will worship the beast. Meaning that before the world's formation. God wrote these names in a book entitled "the life of the Lamb who was slain." He named the book after Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross. This is before the world's existence. It is before sin even occurred.

This is a mystery of the heights we can never scale. We do not have to unravel the mystery in order to stand in awe of it. This passage assures us that the plan of redemption was not reactive to humanity's sin. Before people existed, and before Adam and Eve sinned, the Triune God determined to display His glory in the Son becoming a man and

dying for sinners on the cross. The Lamb slain was not a Plan B option, but the plan of God from the foundation of the world. Jesus is the Eternal Lamb of God.

-E. Reed-

Questions of Reflection:

What kind of comfort does it give you as a Christian to know your name was written in the book of the life of the Lamb who was slain from the foundation of the world?

What confidence does this passage give you today about God's plan to save us and about His strength to sustain us through trials and temptations?

December 24

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.

God created Adam and Eve for His glory and allowed them to have unbroken fellowship with Him. What a joyful relationship they had with their creator and provider. But they fell for Satan's lies and deception by questioning the goodness and wisdom of God. And thus, mankind was forever tainted with a sinful nature in opposition to God. God's justice came forth with a curse of many hardships and surely death.

But Satan also received God's decree and future promise of his defeat. The serpent and the woman will stay at war. Enmity will govern their relationship. Her offspring will bruise the serpent's head, and the serpent's head will bruise his heel.

The imagery is one of an offspring of Eve crushing the head of the serpent under his foot. The picture is of Satan being crushed under the victorious foot of Christ. Jesus' finished work on the cross and resurrection conquers the curse of sin and death and brings salvation to all who repent and believe upon him.

Many saints through the years have waited on the promise. By faith and trust in Christ, the waiting for this promise will be worth the wait.

What are you waiting on right now? What promises of God are you clinging to? Advent season is a time of reflection, waiting, and faith in God's promises. There is light amid this dark world. Jesus is the victor on our behalf is the light of God's grace for sinners.

-R.H.-

Questions of Reflection:

Why is the promise given in the Garden of Eden so important for our faith?

What lessons do you pray God would teach you about waiting on the fulfillment of His promises during this Advent season?

December 25

John 8:58

Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I AM!"

On this day, we are reminded of the great "I AM." We are reminded of Christ's virgin birth, and His eternal existence past, present, and future. Oh, come let us adore Him, the I "AM" that left His heavenly throne and came into this world as babe. The light of the world who has come to save the lost and will come again to make all things new. This is great news; this is our hope and our comfort. I "AM" has promised to bring us home to glory.

In the book of John, we see twenty-three times our Lord's "I AM" statements. He expresses seven metaphors of His saving relationship toward the world.

1. "I AM the Bread of Life" (6:35, 41, 48, 51)
2. "I AM the Light of the world" (8:12)
3. "I AM the Door of the sheep" (10:7,9)
4. "I AM the Good Shepherd" (10:11,14)
5. "I AM the Resurrection and the Life" (11:25)
6. "I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (14:6)
7. "I AM the true Vine" (15:1,5)

And we see more of the glories of Christ in scripture to help us know Him and make Him known. He is Lord (Phil. 2:10-13), He is the wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace; He is the Lord God of hosts, Lord of the nations, the Lion of Judah, the Living Word, and the Rock of our Salvation. He is our Creator, Sustainer, Comforter; He is the Messiah, and He is the great I AM.

-R.H.-

Questions of Reflection:

How does knowing that Jesus is the great I AM, bring comfort and peace to your life today?

When and how did the Lord intervene in your life, regenerate your heart?

Give Christ the praise and honor for supernatural work He has done in you and now go and make disciples of His to all the nations. And remember that the great “I AM” in all His glory will be with you to the end of the age.

