

First Sunday After Christmas – 2023

Saturday, 12/30 at 4:00 & Sunday, 12/31 at 9:00

Your Best Ever Advent and Christmas
Part 9: Knowing Jesus and
Living for Him

Starting 1/1/24, will you
accept my daily challenge to

♦read the Bible, ♦think
about it, ♦pray about it, and
♦apply it?



Text: NAS 1995

New Year's Eve: No Service ★ New Year's Day: Service at 10

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: We made it ♦through our Advent-Christmas booklet and ♦through 2023:

- As we recall our sins, *let us be thankful they are forgiven in Christ.*
- As we look ahead, let us decide to ★use the Bible every day, ★attend service and class every week, and ★be open and obedient to God's will for our lives!

Today's booklet section tells us ♦how we are blessed through Jesus and ♦how we should respond to Him in our daily lives.

Day 25 – Wed, 12/27 – *Believers are God's Adopted Children*

Read and Think: Gal. 4:4-7 But when the **fullness** of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under [subject to] the Law, so that He might redeem [buy back] those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you

are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God. // All people are required to fully keep God's Law, **but** all have fallen into sin. So, the Son of God put on flesh to ✓keep God's Law for us and ✓pay our penalty.

- Infant adoption in Ohio costs about \$45,000! *God paid a much greater price for us* – as the Son of God **came, lived, suffered, died, and was raised to purchase each of us!**
- Through Jesus we pray, Our Father who art in heaven... *By grace through faith in Jesus, ★ the Almighty God is our Father and ★ we are His holy children (Rom. 8:16)!*

HYMN: *God Loves Me Dearly*, LSB 392, vv. 1 & 3

Day 26 – Th, 12/28 – **Believers are Saved through the Trinity**

Read and Think: **Titus 3:4-7** But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

- God is our Savior: He revealed His love to us in the Person of His Son. God did **not** save us because we are good, **but because of His mercy (DM story)**. In other words, **God's love** moved Him to ♦hold back the punishment we deserve and ♦gift us with the forgiveness of all our sins through Jesus!
- God worked by the Holy Spirit through baptism to save us: In other words, Jesus did all that needed to be done to save us; then, *through baptism*, the Holy Spirit gave us faith to trust in Jesus and receive the benefits of His work.

Day 27 – Fr, 12/29 – Believers are the Most Blessed of All

Read and Think: **1 John 4:9-10** By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

- God has revealed our need for Jesus and given us saving faith in Jesus: Therefore, *we are among the most blessed of all people!*
- Jesus is “the propitiation for our sins”: Since our sins have *broken our relationship with God*, **Jesus is THE WAY** in which God removed our sins and restored our relationship.

Day 28 – Saturday, 12/30 – Saved Ones Live to Glorify God

Read and Think: **Titus 2:11-14** For the grace [*undeserved love*] of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

- How is God calling us to live? To ☹️reject all that opposes Him and 😊do all that pleases Him. How do we know which is which? That’s easy – *from the Bible!*
- What is our motivation to live for Jesus? We have been delivered from death *to life*, terror *to peace*, hell *to heaven!* So, **our JOY motivates us to live for Jesus!**

Day 29 – Su, 12/31 – *Being in Awe of Jesus, We Live for Him*

Read and Think: **Hebrews 1:1-3** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And 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...

- What phrases identify Jesus' greatness? To name only two: "heir [inheritor] of all things" and "upholds all things".
- What are our great benefits? Through Jesus we are
‣forgiven, ‣pure in God's sight, and ‣His holy children!

Conclusion:

- Thanks for working through this booklet! If you missed some days, *complete them now*.
- Starting **1/1/24**, will you accept my daily challenge to
‣read the Bible, ‣think about it, ‣pray about it, and ‣apply it? *I hope so! God will bless you in amazing ways!*
- What to read? Use the brochure called "Christian" – which includes 49 of the Bible's most *important* and *interesting* passages (available: by our main entrance and on our website).

Let Us Pray: Dear LORD, *TYSM for Jesus!* Help us ‣grow up in Him, ‣live for Him, and ‣share Him with others!

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