

Tuesday, December 22, 2020
Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

"THE FIRST CHRISTMAS PRESENT"

**"And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold,
I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.
For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'"**

Luke 2: 10-11

I am not a good "gift-giver," even for Christmas. I just have no idea what to get for people. Not that I have a lot of people to shop for. Ok, I'll admit it, it's just Karen and Lexie! Mostly just Karen, since Karen figures out what to get for Lexie. Well, ok, lately Karen and I have begun getting something for us as a couple. So, for the most part I'm "off the hook" when it comes to giving gifts. It's not that I don't like to give gifts; it's just that I never know what to give! If I were super-rich, it would be much easier: a car, a trip to Europe, jewels. You see my point.

God is "super-rich!" He owns everything, and can give anything to anyone. And He's really good at the whole "gift-giving" thing! He's the One who started it all when He created the world exactly as He wanted it to be for us. He gave us the earth, the sun, gravity, oxygen, warmth, food, intelligence, an immune system ... and on and on.

But then He created CHRISTMAS! He really did! And the gift He gave was His one and only Son. Not just as a friend, or a counselor, or someone to keep us company. He gave Him as a sacrifice for sin. Jesus came into the flesh on a particular day in history—probably not December 25. But it happened on a day in history, in a certain place on earth.

First He was conceived in the womb of a young godly woman named Mary. The Holy Spirit made her conceive, not Joseph or any other human male. And then she gave birth in the town of Bethlehem to a very unique person: the God-Man! Well, actually, first the "God-Baby." That's pretty amazing! God became a human being while continuing to be God!

This is the best, most important Christmas present that has ever been given. And it's for you! Not just you, but it includes you. It's the same present for every human being, whoever they are, and whatever they are.

This kind of reminds me of how Karen's dad shopped for Christmas. He would get the same present for everyone he was shopping for. Pretty ingenious! I wish I had thought of that a long time ago when I was still trying to figure out what to get for people at Christmas. He always found something that ALL OF US would benefit from owning. Always very useful and practical. We still have and use many of those gifts Karen's dad got for us all.

God has given you and me, and everyone else, the very same USEFUL, PRACTICAL Gift! He has given us His Son! We all needed a Savior who could die and rise for us so that our sins would be forgiven, and we could have eternal life!

God's Peace!
Pastor Jim