John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-



THE GREATEST GIFT!

We are now in the season of the year when we celebrate the greatest gift ever given – actually, the first step of that great gift. The rest of the gift came a few years later on the cross in Jerusalem.

The greatest gift of course is that of Jesus Christ. Ever since Eve and Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden, humankind had existed in a state separated from God. That is an unbearable state, an unacceptable state, a horrible state in which there can never be any real peace and in which there is no hope.

Years after Adam and Eve God created a sacrifice system by which the Jewish people lived, coming for yearly sacrifices of animals to cover for sins. But the sacrifice of animals just can't do it, can't cover forever and always all the sins of people. Humans would have to be coming to the temple to do a sacrifice all the time.

And then, two thousand years ago, suddenly into this dark world dominated by sin came an invader, the son of God, a member of the Trinity. God was born in human form into a family of Mary and Joseph. He grew up under the guidance of these parents and watched Joseph work as a carpenter. No doubt he became skilled at that trade as well.

When he was 30 years old he left home and began an itinerant ministry for about three years or so, preaching the Kingdom of God, for as he said, that is why he was sent. The Kingdom of God – that entails the whole gospel message. Jesus went around teaching, preaching, and healing. At times it is apparent huge crowds followed him.

People came to hear wondrous truths. He taught as one who had authority. And they came to be healed – you can imagine that once people were healed of serious illnesses others rushed out to bring sick people from their families to Jesus.

He cast out demons. No one had ever seen that before. No one had ever done that in Old Testament Days. That was unique to Jesus. He could do this because of who he was.

Then after about three years of this ministry, he allowed himself to be tortured horribly, beaten beyond human recognition, and killed on a cross in a most humiliating manner in front of anyone who cared to look. His mother was there. His disciple John. Others. And of course gawkers and mockers and all sorts of people.

In going to the cross, he took upon himself all your sins and mine and he overcame them. He became the perfect sacrifice for each of us because he was without sin himself. He paid the price each of us should have paid. That should have been you and me up there on the cross, not Jesus. But it was Jesus, the son of God. And his father sent him to do all this.

There is so much more he did in going to and through the cross. He bore our sicknesses and diseases and pains, and by his stripes we are healed and made whole. He became a curse for us on the cross so that we are free from the curses of the law. Rather we have the blessings of Abraham. He took our unrighteousness so that we might be the righteousness of God in him. And much more.

Here's what he really did – He took care of everything that separated people from God. He reconciled people to God. He did all that was necessary for us to have a true relationship with God and to have life eternal with him and the Father. All people now had to do was to realize who he was, to repent (change what they were doing), and to accept him as their Lord, in Jesus' words to be born of water and the Spirit.

Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice under God's system of sacrifices. He paid the price for us once and for all time. No more need for any more sacrifices. He is our high priest. He is our king, the King of the Kingdom of God. If you obey his commands, you are his friend. If you love him, you will do that.

In all the amazing confusion and difficulty of this age, allow yourself some time this Christmas season to step back and look with amazement at this Jesus, at your Lord, at the King of Kings. He is the only reason you have hope and a future. Nothing else in life provides any such thing. God does not forgive you because he loves you, even though he does. He does not forgive you because he is kind. He forgives you because Jesus took upon himself your sins and paid the sin price in full for you on the cross.

He did it. I like to say that to the Lord sometimes when I am praying or taking communion. You did it, Lord! You did it! Remember he said, "It is finished." He also said to his Father, "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."

Thank you, Lord Jesus. And thank you Father God for sending Jesus to us.

ANOTHER OF GOD'S HEALINGS! ENCOURAGEMENT IN A DARK TIME!

The telephone rang. A woman called to say her husband had been put in intensive care at the hospital in the city near where we live. He had a bleeding brain tumor in the front of his brain. I called Cathy and left for the hospital. Upon arriving I found a crowd of his co-workers standing around talking outside the intensive care section, and his wife soon joined them. Then Cathy arrived. I walked around the corner from the crowd to a quiet place to pray. My thoughts had to do with just what God would have me do, with the man in restricted entry intensive care and all his coworkers around. It quickly became clear - I was to go forward in praying for his healing.

So I returned to the area outside the intensive care section. Surprisingly, no one was there but Cathy! Everyone else had disappeared! Cathy and I pushed the intercom button outside the intensive care section. A woman answered. I said we were there to see this man, and she immediately pushed the door lock release to let us in! God was clearly already at work!

Entering the room, we saw the man in a coma. Cathy went on one side of the bed and I went on the other. I anointed him with oil and put my hand on his head, and the room instantly was filled with electricity. It was super-charged. The presence and power of God was intense in that intensive care! For no more than a minute I spoke and prayed healing as I always do. No doubt I said in Jesus name, be healed. And we turned and walked to the door to leave. As we looked back, the man while still lying there waved at us!

The next day I called the room. His wife answered. Her husband was sitting up in a chair praising God! And, his wife reported, the neurologist had come by earlier and said, "I didn't do that!" No, he didn't. We didn't either. Jesus Christ did. Long ago he bore our sicknesses and diseases and carried our pains, and by his wounds we are healed. Praise God. And thank him always. For all he has done for you.

YEAR END DONATIONS – A BLESSING TO THE MINISTRY AND YOU This ministry operates entirely on the gifts and contributions of those it reaches. Please consider contributing if you have been in any way touched or informed through this ministry. Galatians 6:6 even makes this point, that someone receiving should share all good things with his teacher. As you know, there is a reward promised to all who give to Jesus and the gospel, which is what you are doing by sowing into this ministry or another like it. Even in this secular world system there is a reward for giving before the end of 2012 – another deduction against your income taxes for this year!

Our thanks to all of you who bless this ministry with your prayers, your gifts, and your efforts.

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May you all have a wonderful Christmas and may you live in the full revelation of who you are in this wonderful Savior.

John and Cathy

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