



7 BLESSINGS OF CHRISTMAS



FROM
DAVE'S
HEART
TO
YOURS

As we close out 2021 and approach Yuletide, we will all have had unique experiences, some pleasant, some sad, which permeate our thoughts as to what the year has meant for each of us individually. I no less than most.

Yet as we reflect on Christmas there are certain takeaways which align with the Heavenly host and declare, 'Glory to God in the Highest'. As such I'd like to share with you the 7 Blessings of Christmas.

1. THE BLESSING OF GOD'S INVASION OF MANKIND.

The first blessing as the subtitle suggests, is that in an instant God invaded mankind to move from a revered abstract God to become a personal

Saviour and Friend.

A loving caring Father who is interested in every detail of our lives and emotions down to numbering the hairs on our head and choosing to come and dwell among us. – What a Blessing!

2. THE BLESSING OF RECEIVING AND GIVING OF THE GIFT...

All the commercialism and lavish spending aside, there is something far greater here.

That very first Christmas in Bethlehem had several gifts imbedded, both tangible and eternal, the first gift being Jesus himself. What a gift!

Accompanying Jesus arrival was His Deity – Fully God, yet fully man. And as if that wasn't enough it was a wrapped in the 'Free gift of Eternal life'. – What a Blessing.

By now you're probably asking, so what is the biblical substantiation for exchanging tangible gifts at Christmas? Well... there were those three learned intellectuals who arrived at the stable in Bethlehem bearing gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.

3. THE BLESSING OF SEEING HIM FACE TO FACE ...and still living.

I'm sure we have all wondered at some time or another, what it would be like to stand face to face in- front of Jesus. How would we react, what would we say, where would we begin?

In the Old Testament we read about how Isaiah declared, "Woe is me, for I am undone! For my eyes have seen the King the Lord of hosts" (Isa 6:5). No one was supposed to see God's face and live.

At that first Christmas that all changed as John later wrote 'We beheld His Glory', here in Jesus was a Saviour who not only allowed us to gaze into His eyes but said, I call you, my friends. - What a Blessing!

4. THE BLESSING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ENTERING MANKIND

At the arrival of Jesus, the Holy Spirit moved from being an abstruse concept to becoming a person that would live within us. The first account of this is recorded when Mary, pregnant with Jesus visits Elizabeth; who was pregnant with John (the Baptist) experiences her baby leaping within her womb and is filled with the Holy Spirit. To this day that same experience is ours. – What a Blessing!

5. THE BLESSING OF GOODWILL AND PEACE - TO MEN.

We may sometimes wring our hands in despair when we look at the world around us. We see nations provoking nations and folk trying to outmaneuver one another on every front. Well, we may not be able to broker world peace, but we can make a difference right where we are. We need to embrace the Goodwill part, which begins with each one of us effecting every person we encounter each day.

So, we all get to be 'sowers of Goodwill'.
– What a Blessing!

6. THE BLESSING OF THE GENIUS OF JESUS.

Prior to Christ's invasion of earth, most rulers were tyrants, and their effectiveness was often measured by their ruthlessness. With Jesus' arrival he imputed a different and opposite spirit which totally flummoxed the establishment of the day, particularly the spiritual. Jesus was a Servant Leader. As Irwin McManus puts it, it showed the Genius of Christ. McManus says in having sat with many great leaders around the world and posing the question as to what they would want their legacy to be, almost without exception their answer is to be remembered as a Servant Leader. That all began that first Christmas.
– What a Blessing!

7. THE BLESSING OF THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR.

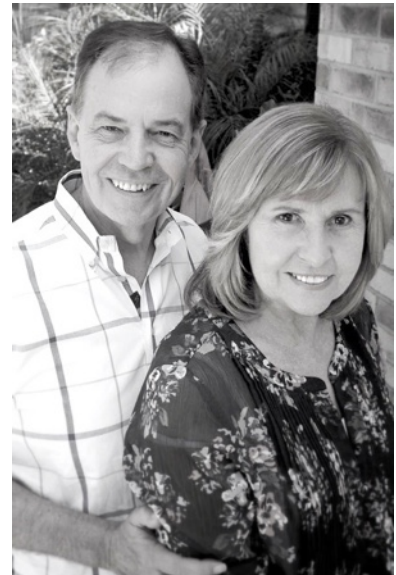
This is one of Tony's (Fitzgerald) most favorite descriptions of Yuletide ... 'It's simply the most wonderful time of the year! Yes, there is still room for that childlike faith..... and we could all do with a good dose of it.

"Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (Matt 18:3-4 Nas) - What a Blessing!

Hence the 7 Blessings of Christmas which are your's and mine in full abundance.

Carol and I speak the blessing of Jesus over you and your family this Christmas.

Dave



**DAVID & CAROL
CAPE**

EDITOR'S NOTE

At the time of writing this article David is undergoing a third round of Chemotherapy in Port Elizabeth, having undergone major stomach surgery in Atlanta during August. He and Carol continue to look to the Lord their healer in whom they place their trust daily along with the Christian Doctor's and nurses who work with them. They value and thank all those who faithfully continue to pray for them.

IMPACT THOUGHTS FROM OUR 50 YEAR JOURNEY

One of the greatest impact truths that changed our lives was the understanding of who was in the manger that day. It has shaped our 50 years.

A teacher asked her young pupils to draw the nativity scene. As she walked around the classroom she noticed that one had drawn a wonderful picture with such detail, but saw something unusual. Amongst all that one would expect, she noticed that a fat man was sitting by the manger. When she asked who he was, the youngster replied "that is Round John Virgin!"

We can hear the same story but not always hear it in the same way. Growing up in Christian homes we knew a baby was there, and a Saviour, even sang songs that talked about King Jesus but the realization later in life that the baby was a King and would rule a kingdom, was life changing! No wonder the scripture says, **"he who has ears to hear, let him hear."** Gloria in Excelsis Deo says it so powerfully!

*Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly o'er the plains:
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains
gloria in excelsis deo!
gloria in excelsis deo!
come to bethlehem, and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.*

The shepherds heard and sought a King!

Thanks David for reminding us of all the blessings of Christmas.

Have a blessed Christmas with family and friends as we honor our King!

Love,

Tony & Marilyn



**TONY & MARILYN
FITZGERALD**

