***Christmas: The Gift that Keeps on Giving***

Ephesians 3:7-13 January 1, 2016

**LOOK (again) How Low God Will Go!**

*Understanding the deep truths of God's Word does not give a man a big head; it gives him a broken and contrite heart*. – Warren Wiersbe

**1 Timothy 1:13-16 (NIV)**
13  Even though I was once *a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man*, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. 14  The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.
15  Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst (NASB/ESV “foremost”). 16  But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst (NASB/ESV “foremost”) of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.

*If you aren’t worse than Paul, get over yourself (and your worst sins)!*

**LOOK (again) How Much God Will Do!**

**Luke 2:9-11 (ESV)**
9  And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10  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*. 11  For *unto you* is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

**Ephesians 2:4-7 (ESV)**
4  But God, being *rich in mercy*, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5  even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—6  and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7  *so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus*.

*What am I teaching the angels? What is my church teaching the angels?*

SUGGESTIONS: *In and through Christ…*

* God redeems and fruitfully employs those who are “less than the least.”
* God’s message is good news!
* God’s greatest riches are available to the least of us.
* God reconciles enemies and turns them into friends. (Gentiles/Jews)

**LOOK (again) How Close You Can Come!**

*Have you come to the manger? The cross? The empty tomb? Draw near!*

*Good news! Great joy! A Savior has been born! Christ the Lord!*

*Glory to God! Peace on earth! Rejoice! Return!*

**Romans 5:1-2 (NIV)**
1  Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2  through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.