

The New Covenant: God's Gift of Himself

If our Christian Christmas celebrations are about anything they are about God Himself coming in Person into our human predicament to do for us what neither we nor the Old Covenant could ever fully do for the human race. Consider the following:

- Neither We Ourselves Nor the Old Covenant Could Give Us a "Passing Grade" before God.

In Jesus Christ the Incarnate God - fully God, fully man - came and took the "test" for us, passed it, and gave us His "grade". The requirement of the law was perfectly met by Him and is now fulfilled in all who receive Him. What a gift!

- Neither We Ourselves Nor the Old Covenant Could Perfectly Justify Us before God.

When we receive Jesus Christ we receive His righteousness - God's righteousness! We now have a righteousness of being that is the same yesterday, today, and forever. We have a finished righteousness that renders us once and forever justified by Jesus Christ before our Creator. A priceless gift!

- Neither We Ourselves Nor the Old Covenant Could Permanently Defeat All Our Enemies.

When we were enemies of God, He came and did an amazing thing... He wiped out all our enemies! He came in Person and paid for all our debts, forgave all our sins, put to death our sin self, defeated all demonic forces, put death and separation to death - then gave His victory to us. A powerful gift!

- Neither We Ourselves Nor the Old Covenant Could Ever Effectively Join Us to God Life.

To place faith in the Person and Work of the Messiah is to be cut off from all that is not God, have that "stuff" put to death and buried, in order to be raised as a new creation joined to God's Life! A Full and Perfect Savior joined to us makes us fully and perfectly saved. An immeasurable gift!

Let's not fret too much this Christmas over what gifts we do or do not receive. We already have in Christ more gifts than we know what to do with!



- **Tax-deductible contributions** - may be made to *One In Christ, Inc.* by mailing your gifts to the address above.
- **Messages and sermons by Steve** - can be listened to or downloaded at www.stevepettitmessages.com or may be requested on CD by mail at the address above.
- **Conferences and events led by Steve** - can be arranged by contacting Steve at the telephone number above.
- **To receive this newsletter electronically** - email your request to OICnewsletter@Gmail.com

Praise Reports & Prayer Requests

GREETINGS

Appearances really can be deceiving. That is perhaps no more obvious than in the (actual) Christmas story. It would be really hard to believe, had we been there ourselves, that the God of all majesty and power and eternity was hidden in the helpless body of a human baby. And, no less, in the little famous-for-nothing outback town of _____ (fill in your "Bethlehem").

It kind of makes me think of all I may be blind to in my here and now. I wonder in how many unlikely places and people I've missed the omnipresent God. I'm still too much like Jacob in Genesis 28:16, "Surely the Lord was in the place, and I did not know it." I wonder how many God encounters, not unlike Jacob, I've slept through?

Christmas is a glorious reminder of God in the unlikeliest of people and places. It is a prompting to discount nothing... not our Bethlehems and Nazareths. To overlook no one... neither our friends nor our enemies... not even ourselves!

Merry Christmas!

One In Christ, Inc.
13820 NW 172nd Avenue
Alachua, Florida 32615

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 6

4,11,18,25 CCF
6 Ocala Study ← ****NOTE CHANGE****
13 Alachua Study

JANUARY

13-14 Sebring, FL (864-382-6265)

JAN 29 - FEB 1 RecLab, Orlando, FL

FEBRUARY

17-19 Florida Retreat

MARCH

2-4 Vero Beach, FL (772-563-0430)

9-11 Houston, TX (713-643-8014)



WINTER RETREAT



FEBRUARY 17-19, 2012



ALACHUA FLORIDA



\$275 couple (all inclusive)

\$150 single (2 to a room)

\$230 single (1 to a room)

or

\$65 person conference fee & 3 meals

or

\$20 person conference fee

Includes:
conference fee
& 5 meals

(no lodging
or breakfast)

RESERVATIONS:

\$50 per person DUE BY JANUARY 20th

No reservation fee necessary to attend meetings only

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