



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Unwrapping Christ this Christmas ... by Gareth

READ PROVERBS 8: 22-36

1. Who He was

- Christ was there at the beginning. v22
- Christ is everlasting even before the earth. v23
- He was there when there was no depths, no fountains, no mountains or hills, fields or even heaven itself. He was there. v24-29
- Before anything was brought forth. Jesus Christ was the Father's delight, rejoicing always before Him. V30
- Jesus delights, were with the sons of men. v 31
- The instruction to listen to Him and obey. v32-34
- Whoso findeth me findeth life. v35

2. What He became

- Gal 4v4 - in the fullness of time.
- Isaiah 9 v 6-7
- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. *John 1:1, John 1:14*
- Born of a virgin, lived a perfect life.
- Died for sinners.
- Rose again from the dead.

3. What He offers

- Blessed us with all Spiritual blessings. *Eph 3 -14*
- In *Ephesians chapter 1* Paul begins to list the spiritual blessings the Christian enjoys in Christ Jesus, and he is so taken up with the subject that he cannot bring himself to close the sentence. From the third to the fourteenth verse is one unbroken sentence of 269 words in English (205 in Greek). Periods or full stops have been placed after the sixth and twelfth verses in the English translation, but in reality they are not necessary.
- That enormous sentence is crammed with the immense spiritual blessings the believer enjoys in Christ Jesus-election, predestination, adoption, redemption through the blood, forgiveness of sins, the revelation of God's will, and the sealing of the Spirit, to name the most obvious ones.
- These blessings come to us, not because we have earned them, but because God, through the riches of His grace, has given them to us according to the good pleasure of His will. A sovereign God dispenses sovereign blessings.
- Faced with such great spiritual privileges, we should learn each day to count our blessings. So often people focus on what they have not, and become depressed and despondent. Centre rather on the things you do have in Christ Jesus, and you will enter each day with a song. ■

WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Week 52

Events /Notices

- ▶ **Remember that there is a special offering** this Sunday to Tearfund for the famine in Yemen so please use envelopes provided.
- ▶ **This Sunday the 30th of December** at 11.00am will be a testimony meeting for all who want to share about God's blessings in 2018
- ▶ **Prayer and fasting** *Sunday 13th of January.*
- ▶ **Baptism** scheduled for New Year. Date TBC.

Extra Services

If you have children with you, these are the facilities provided:

▶ Crèche and Pre-school Praise

Our crèche is based on the floor above the Meeting Room with baby changing facilities and toys to keep your young child occupied if they do not settle during the meeting. Parents are to attend to their children at all times. There is a short and simple pre-school Bible lesson during the sermon for 3-7 years old in the Crèche (as arranged).

▶ Sunday School

Our Sunday School is open to children of school going age and operates during the sermon in the Sunday School room on the top floor. Our teachers have a Bible story and songs prepared for your child(ren), teaching them the need for Salvation and Christian living.

Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. (Psalm 34:11)

▶ Tea and Coffee

After the Sunday morning service, tea, coffee and light refreshments are available on the top floor in the Hospitality Room. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it (*Hebrews 13:2*).