

1  **EVERY DAY IS CHRISTMAS**

Ephesians 4:7-12

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• But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup> Therefore He says: *When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.* <sup>9</sup> (Now this, "He ascended" – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. <sup>12</sup> For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

3  **Christmas**

- Christmas in Taiwan
- Family celebration
- CHRISTMAS IN JULY
- EVERY DAY IS CHRISTMAS!

4  **EVERY DAY IS CHRISTMAS BECAUSE OF GRACE**

- V. 7 – "to each one of us grace was given."
- Definition of Grace
  - Traditional Definition: The unmerited favor of God
  - Evangelical Dictionary of Theology: Undeserved blessing freely bestowed on men by God.
  - Grace is a single word definition of the gospel

5  **Doctor of Grace**

- Augustine – Doctor of Grace: One of the early church fathers – "Augustine was singled out as the "Doctor of Grace;" so much did he delight in those doctrines that exhibit the freeness of divine favour." (Spurgeon)

6  **Doctor of Grace**

- John Bunyan
  - *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*
    - Romans 5:20 – 1 Timothy 1:15
  - Written in 1666 while he was in prison for preaching, *Grace Abounding* chronicles Bunyan's spiritual journey from a profane life filled with cursing, blasphemy, and Sabbath desecration to a new creation in Christ Jesus.

7  **Doctor of Grace**

- John Newton
  - Captain of a slave ship:
    - Ruthless businessman and an unfeeling observer of the Africans he traded. Slave revolts on board ship were frequent. Newton mounted guns and muskets on the deck aimed at the slaves' quarters. Slaves were lashed and put in thumbscrews to keep them quiet."
  - May 10, 1748 – Saved in a storm

8  **AMAZING GRACE**

- Amazing grace! (how sweet the sound)
- That sav'd a wretch like me!
- I once was lost, but now am found,
- Was blind, but now I see.
- 
- 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
- And grace my fears reliev'd;
- How precious did that grace appear,
- The hour I first believ'd!

9  **AMAZING GRACE**

- Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,
- I have already come;
- 'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
- And grace will lead me home.
- 
- The Lord has promis'd good to me,
- His word my hope secures;
- He will my shield and portion be,
- As long as life endures

10  **AMAZING GRACE**

- Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
- And mortal life shall cease;
- I shall possess, within the veil,
- A life of joy and peace.
- 
- The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
- The sun forbear to shine;
- But God, who call'd me here below,
- Will be forever mine.

11  **Doctor of Grace**

- Charles Spurgeon
  - His story
  - Preaching in a country church
  - Arrived late – His grandfather started the sermon

12  **Paul -- Doctor of Grace**

- Arabian Desert - taught by God in the doctrines of Grace.
- Ephesians 1:7: *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.*
- Ephesians 2:8: *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it*

*is the gift of God.*

13  **Paul -- Doctor of Grace**

- Ephesians 3:1-2, 7-8: *For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> If indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you . . . <sup>7</sup>of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. <sup>8</sup> To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.*

14  **Paul -- Doctor of Grace**

- 1 Corinthians 15:9-10: *For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*

15  **EVERY DAY IS CHRISTMAS**

- BECAUSE OF GOD'S GRACE GIFT TO US
- <sup>8</sup> Therefore He says: *When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.* <sup>9</sup> (Now this, "He ascended" – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.

16  **BECAUSE OF GOD'S GRACE GIFT TO US**

- John 3:16: *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*
- 2 Corinthians 8:9: *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.*

17  **The Gift – Christ Descending**

- Philippians 2:5-8: *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men, <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

18  **The Gift – Christ Descending**

- Incarnation – John 1:14: *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*
- Ministry
- Death

19  **The Gift – Christ Descending**

- Hebrews 2:9-10: *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. <sup>10</sup> For it was sitting for Him for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*
- Romans 6:23: *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus*

*our Lord.*

20  **The Gift – Christ Ascending**

- Philippians 2:9-11: *Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth. <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

21  **The Gift – Christ Ascending**

- Sin defeated
- Death Defeated – 1 Corinthians 15:55: *O! Death where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"*
- Satan Defeated
  - V. 8: *" . . . He led captivity captive."*

22  **Satan Defeated**

- 1 John 3:8: *He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*
- Hebrews 2:14-15: *Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

23  **EVERY DAY IS CHRISTMAS**

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- BECAUSE OF CHRIST'S GRACE GIFTS TO MEN
- vv. 8, 11-12: *He . . . gave gifts to men. <sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. <sup>12</sup> For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.*