Gracestoration
Update
CURbearers inc.
"Restoring People in God's Grace and Making Disciplers"

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Christmas -- The Mystery of the Incarnation

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it" (Jn. 1:1-5).

This is a very familiar passage, but it is extraterrestrial or heavenly and beyond our earthly understanding. The Apostle John begins his Gospel using three figures of speech in a context that we do not commonly use, namely, the **Word**, the **Life** and the **Light**.

The Word

The Psalmist says of the **Word**, *"By the **word** of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host... He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast"* (Ps. 33:6, 9).

The New Testament is in agreement with the Psalmist, *"By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared **by the word of God**, so that what is*



seen was not made out of things which are visible" (Heb. 11:3).

The Apostle Peter notes, *"that by **the word of God** the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water"* (2 Pet. 3:5). Our very salvation is accomplished by the spoken **word of God**, *"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the **word of Christ**"* (Rom. 10:17). It is also true for our daily living, *"Man shall not live on bread alone, but on **every*** [spoken] ***word** that proceeds from the mouth of God"* (Matt. 4:4).

The Word was Life

The Apostle further testifies, *"What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have looked at and touched with our hands concerning **the Word of Life**--and **the life** was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you **the eternal life**, which was with the Father and was manifested to us"* (1 Jn. 1:1-2).

The very **life** of mankind was breathed or spoken into being, *"Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils **the breath of life**; and man became a living being"* (Gen. 2:7).

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Christmas Greetings from us to you.

We pray that the **Incarnate Word** -- Emmanuel -- Jesus Christ will be yours and our focus this blessed season, rather than upon ourselves.

He lavished His love and grace upon us, *"I came that you might have **Life**, and might have it abundantly"* (Jn. 10:10)

May Emmanuel's love and grace overflow through us so those around us may see His **Light** and respond to His **Life**!

The Life Was Light

John continues, *"If we **walk in the Light** as He Himself is in the **Light**, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin"* (1 Jn. 1:7).

The Scripture says that the **Light** shown in the darkness, but that the darkness did not respond to it. However, Saul of Tarsus in the darkness of his mission, saw the great **Light**, heard the **Voice** [**Word**] of Jesus, believed and was given **Life** [salvation] (Acts 9:4ff).

While speaking to His followers, *"Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the **Light** of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the **Light of Life**"* (Jn. 8:12).

The Word Incarnate

In the fullness of time angels heralded the news to some lowly shepherds, *"Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger"* (Lk. 2:10-12).

*"And the **Word** became flesh* [a human being], *and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory* [**Light**], *glory as of the only begotten* [**Life**] *from the Father, full of grace and truth"* (Jn. 1:14).

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together" (Col. 1:15-17).

Amazing! God incarnate in a human body – Jesus Christ--Emmanuel.

Incarnation – Believers'

This is *"**the mystery** which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory. We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ"* (Col. 1:25-27).

This is ***the mystery*** of the believer's incarnation--**Christ in you,** the hope of glory! Always before in history, God's Holy Spirit came upon individuals for a season and primarily for the purpose of ministry. But now Jesus has come to dwell within each believer.

It is very unfortunate that most believers fail to enjoy the indwelling of Jesus throughout their daily walk. They spend most of their life trying to live the Christian life in their own natural strength [flesh or old nature].

Jesus Christ came to take charge of our life as He indwells each believer, even as God the Father indwelt Jesus' body. *"Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative but the Father abiding in Me, does His works"* (Jn. 14:10).

Christmas -- The Mystery of the Incarnation – It is 'Christ in You'! How glorious!!!

Thank You Very Much!

Dear Friends,

As the chairman of the CUPbearers/Gracestoration Board of Directors, I would like to express thanks to God for the faithful prayers and gifts from you who have interest in this ministry. This has been a difficult year for many organizations similar to ours. Through your faithfulness God has provided for this ministry in a way that allowed us to maintain the ministry for His glory.

There are many new opportunities for ministry that come each month. The materials produced are being used around the world. God is good! We know that God is blessing because of your faithfulness through prayer and finances.

As we look to 2011, we ask God for continued good health, and strength, and pray for continued opportunities to disciple the many men and women in Christian service that the Lord Jesus Christ brings to us.

May the Lord bless you all this Christmas season for your support and prayers!

Don Boesel
Chairman of the Board
CUPbearers/Gracestoration