

Our Urgent Task

The sacred writings contain preliminary reports by the prophets on God's Son. His descent from David roots him in history; his unique identity as Son of God was shown by the Spirit when Jesus was raised from the dead, setting him apart as the Messiah, our Master. Through him we received both the generous gift of his life and the urgent task of passing it on to others ...

Romans 1: 2-5, *The Message*

There's no big free Christmas lunch here in Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome. We have been given God's greatest gift to humankind, and we receive it by entering into obedient trust in Jesus. While explaining this to the church in Rome, Paul declared himself "a devoted slave of Jesus Christ on assignment to proclaim God's words and acts."

What does the gift of the Christ child call us to do in response? How can we spread the good news of God's Son to others? During his short ministry on earth, Jesus witnessed what it means to be the Servant Messiah, bringing the good news to those who needed it most: the poor, the brokenhearted, captives and prisoners.

As we read the scriptures we see that these are the people who are most open to learning about the hope and salvation that accompanied God's gift to us. Think of people in the broadest meanings of those terms and you may recognize that almost everyone you meet has a need that can be met in part by a smile, an encouraging comment or liberating message, a kind deed, an invitation to your church or Sunday school class, a shared meal or a warm coat on a cold day.

Abide in God's goodness and love this Advent Season, and pass it on!

Prayer: What gift can I bring to the Child sleeping there in the manger, Lord?

All that I have is His, be it unpolished, awkward, and sometimes afraid.

Fill me with the fire and confidence of your Holy Spirit
as I accept the loving gift of the Messiah. Amen

Linda Yates

Additional Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Psalm 80: 1-7; 17-19

Romans 1: 1-7

Matthew 1: 18-25