

1/7/19

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The company has left. The tree is taken down. The decorations are returned to their boxes. Christmas soon becomes a distant memory replaced by regular routines. As the glow of Christmas wanes, it leaves an empty feeling inside. It also leads to the question: "How do I keep that joyful Christmas spirit throughout the year?"

Unfortunately, the answer is not found in what the world offers. Nor is it found in the good intentions which dwell in deep recesses of the heart. The answer can only come from what God offered the world through his Son.

On the night Jesus was born, God did something glorious. Not only did he send his one and only Son into the world, he sent him full of grace and truth. It is only in Jesus I find the answer to the emptiness I feel.

We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

In Jesus my life will always be full. I have his comforting Word to cheer me in my sadness. I have his never-failing presence to sustain me in my loneliness. I even have his personal assurance to silence all my doubts and fears.

What God offers through his Son is different from what the world offers. Jesus came from God the Father full of grace and truth. He came to bring me God's undeserved love – his grace – to release me from the guilt of my sin and the despair of eternal death. He came to bring me God's truth which frees me from the deceptions of the devil and the distractions of the world. He even came to bring me the assurance that God's undeserved love knows no limits and that his truth never fails.

It is Jesus who came from the Father full of grace and truth, and it is Jesus who offers the fullness of God's grace and truth. He tells me my life will never be empty.

Prayer: *O gracious Lord, I rejoice in the birth of my Savior. I also rejoice in the rich blessing he came to bring. Keep me in your grace and truth until I receive the greatest of all blessings – life in heaven with you. Amen.*

(WELS E-Devotion)

...See you in worship.

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

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