



# GIFT WRAPPED IN FLESH

## The Gift of Security

Ok so we are in part 3 of our Advent Series entitled “*Gift Wrapped In Flesh.*” This series is trying to help us see the tremendous Gift the Advent of Jesus Christ has been for all mankind.

Two weeks ago we have learned about THE GIFT OF SEEING GOD, and last week Pastor Nate taught us about THE GIFT OF SUFFERING. And this morning we are going to examine ***THE GIFT OF SECURITY*** that Jesus offers our world.

Now we all know that security is important...right?  
By a show of hands how many of you locked the door of your car before you came in this morning?  
How many of you locked your house before leaving this morning? We do this and we don't even think about it.



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## The Gift of Security

We secure the things that are important to us (instinctively) because we know that we live in a world where valuable things WILL be taken if not guarded.

As evidence of this, did you know that the Department of Defense has a 2022 budget of **1.64 Trillion Dollars**.

This is more money than we spend on food, education, and infrastructure.

What this demonstrates is that security is very important to us.

We have security cameras, there are security guards at many stores, there are security settings on your computer and lock screens for your phone.



Who can tell me what this thing is? ↑

\*The Club Story

Does anyone here still use The Club today? Anyone still have one in their car (be honest)? You get bonus points!

Friends the point is we do a lot and spend a lot to ensure that the things we value are secure.



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## The Gift of Security

But Advent (the arrival of Jesus) is a moment in our History when our position as people actually became A LOT more secure.

If you would turn with me to Hebrews chapter 2 beginning in verse 10.

This morning we are going to examine The Gift of Security Jesus Christ affords every Man, Woman, & Child forever.

This will challenge our thinking on where our truest security lies. And my hope is that we are ultimately left in awe and wonder by how securely we are held by the God of All.

## Hebrews 2:10, 11

<sup>10</sup> In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. <sup>11</sup> Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them **brothers and sisters**.

**Read:** 

Here in these two verses the writer of Hebrews tells us several things.

**#1. God so moved that our redemption came at the humiliation of the Savior.**

Because God is just someone had to atone for the sin in the world, someone had to endure the degradation.

**#2. This plan was enacted by the one through whom everything exists.**

Almighty God presided over the plan of redemption, so much so that he offered His own Son as the atoning sacrifice.

## Hebrews 2:10, 11

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**#3. This was done so that we could be FAMILY, BROTHERS, and SISTER.**

God's plan in all of this was to take a family that was divided in Eden, and reconcile them back together.

Said more simply this passage communicates the idea that...**The Creator Of All saw fit that Christ's humiliation would purchase our redemption so that we could be reunited as Family.**

Friends, what a GIFT THIS IS!

It is hard to imagine a gift greater than Family and within the Gift of Advent is the acceptance into the Greatest Family of all, The Family of God.

# Advent Truth #1

Advent grants us the gift of  
an **eternal family.**



And that brings us to Advent Truth #1 for this morning. **Advent grants us the gift of an eternal family.**

One of the ways I personally define family, or the differentiation between family and good friends. It's that family are the ones who can't say NO!

It's the idea within family of an extra tie that binds. The idea that problems and burdens are no longer individualized but rather that problems and burdens are shared.

It's the idea that within a family we celebrate the individual triumphs as if they'd happened to us, and we mourn when a family member is down trodden as if the bad news was our own.

And when a description of a family is given like this our hearts are compelled because we ALL want this. Much of the dysfunction we see in the world is because many people do not have this. This is what Advent offers us an... **ETERNAL FAMILY.**

## Ephesians 1:5

He [God] predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will

God's word says in Ephesians 1:5

Read: 

What this means friends is that God's unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family. Predestined means **“determined in advance by divine will.”**

His plan has always been to bring us into the security of His favor.

Because you see a good father makes His children feel secure, a good father wards off danger, and makes sacrifices to ensure the safety of His family.

Friends that is the God we serve. That is what Advent brought us.





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The Gift of Security

Illus:

Let me ask you all a question.

How many of you have already completed all of your Christmas shopping?

Has anyone not even started yet?

This is the time of year when we are often over extended. We have too many things to do, too many things to buy and when our bank account draws low and we can't imagine going to the store one more time. That's when we rely on the wonderful Christmas tradition of **regifting**.



Webster's New Millennium Dictionary offer us a helpful definition of regifting: To regift is "to give an unwanted gift to someone else" or "to give as a gift something one previously received as a gift."

If the statistics are true about 2/3rds of us are guilty of regifting.

Some people are perfectly fine with the practice. Others find it a bit inconsiderate.

But I think we can all agree it can lead to some pretty cringe worthy stories.

I have a friend whose mother-in-law would always regift things that had been given to her that she didn't want.



What was even more awkward was that she never really remembered who had given her what.

One notable Christmas my friend [who will go unnamed] received a pack of women's socks from His mother-in-law...and to make matters worse they were the same socks he'd given her last year.

Tell me you didn't like my gift, without telling me you didn't like my gift. Sooo awkward.

Some of you are feeling guilty know, I probably just added to your shopping list right now, you were planning on regifting some things I this illustrations just messed that up 😊.



I illustrate this because if regifting is what happens when we don't want a gift we've received. What happens when we do not receive the gift of Advent into our lives?

Friends if we do not receive the gift of Advent into our lives and the security of being joined with Christ, adopted into his family.

When we see God face to face when He comes to judge the living and the dead, when all of our days have ended, what will we say on that day if we haven't received this gift, if we haven't taken the implications of this gift seriously.

If God truly did send His Son to die for us and we ignore that GIFT.....?

# Hebrews 10:14, 15

**<sup>14</sup> Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.**

As we continue on in verse 14 of our text, the writer of Hebrews explains more about the Gift of Security that those in Christ enjoy.

Read: 

In verse 14 there is an acknowledgement that by Jesus becoming like us “flesh and blood” He was undoing the work...He was releasing the power Satan held on mankind.

You see it was the sharing of our humanity that was a significant part of His gift.

God became flesh to reverse the curse. Verse 15 says we were held in slavery by the fear of death.

# Hebrews 10:14, 15

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Before Jesus, everyone feared death and for good reason. In Advent Jesus arrives to conquer death, and in conquering the grave it is not only He that rises but all those who trust in His name.

In Colossians 2:12 the Apostle Paul talks about the idea that “[Christians] were also raised with Christ ***through your faith in the working of God***, who raised Christ from the dead.

Friends death’s sting has been removed.

That doesn’t mean we will not die, rather it means, in Christ our Death is NOT THE END. Many have and will pass from this life to the next uncertain about what lies ahead. What this passage is telling us is that a part of the reason Jesus came was to offer us the CERTAINTY THAT IN CHRIST DEATH IS NOT FINAL.

## Advent Truth #2

Christ set aside His **deity** so  
we might have **security**.



And that brings us to Advent Truth #2 for this morning.  
**Christ set aside His deity so we might have security.**

We will never know, this side of heaven, the full weight of what it must have been like to BE PERFECT UNITY...and then to descend into the darkness of this world willingly.

That is a picture of LOVE. FOR YOU. FOR ME. We are secure in that LOVE, friends I hope you know that LOVE.

**[Pause]**

I told my wife the other day after looking on Twitter for 3 minutes that sometimes I really don't like this planet.

Now if imperfect, flawed, sinner Todd doesn't like this planet after 3 minutes in Twitter. What must it have been like from the perspective of the only perfect person ever?

## Advent Truth #2

Christ set aside His **deity** so  
we might have **security**.



And you see I want us to wrestle with the tension we see here in Hebrews. Being confronted with the idea that you do not have to live your life as though we aren't secure if you are in Christ Jesus.

If you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, if you have confessed it with your mouth and believed it in your heart, you are secure.

And some of us feel that security in Christ.

But others of us today do not feel secure in Christ, and my question for those of you today is have you claimed your security?

Hebrews 2:15 says that Jesus **freed us from life long slavery**...in other words He broke the chains, but unfortunately too many of us live like we are still in bondage.



## Advent Truth #2

Christ set aside His **deity** so  
we might have **security**.



There are many reasons why this happens [*we don't have time to get into all of that, it could be it's own sermon*] but what I will say is that we often do not live fully in the freedom Christ secured for us if we do not know/understand the depth of our need for it.

As I have grown in my walk with Jesus, and I have owned my sin, I have stopped making excuses and have fallen desperately on His mercy and grace...I have felt more secure in His love. Because I know I cannot do it myself.

But the GOOD NEWS is that He came to do what I could never do. He bled...so I could be gracious to my wife. He was beaten so I could...lovingly show mercy to my children. He sweated blood...so I could love my neighbor as myself. He died...so I might live. He was raised...that I might rise with Him. This is a Gift to us...this relationship is security.

# Hebrews 10:16

**16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants.**



Back in our text in verse 16

**Read:** ↑

This verse shines an important spotlight on another aspect of the gift that has been given to the world.

In referencing that Jesus didn't come to help the Angels but ***Abraham's descendants***; the writer of Hebrews is drawing a distinction in Christ's ministry.

Meaning that this gift is **targeted** directly at the physical and spiritual descendants of Abraham.

You see friends this Advent gift was the culmination of a promise God made to Abraham nearly 1900 years before.

## Genesis 12:2, 3

<sup>2</sup> “I will make you into a great nation,  
and I will bless you;  
I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.

<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you.

Read:



The promise that all people on the Earth would be blessed through Abraham finds its fulfillment in the Advent of Jesus.

Now we have covered how Jesus has been a blessing in a spiritual sense to those who have received him...but I think the ways in which Advent blesses the world touches even those who do not believe.

Here's what I mean by that...one could argue that because of Jesus' life and influence, art, architecture, literature, medicine, politics, economics, society, religion, science, and therefore history all changed. How we count years is based around the fact that He lived.

## Genesis 12:2, 3

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and whoever curses you I will curse;  
**and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you.**

Jesus took our concept of JOY and magnified it.

He took our concept of FORGIVENESS and expanded it.

Jesus took our concept of LOVE and exemplified it.

The Gospels, which describe the life and work of Jesus, are also the most well-known and documented writings from the ancient world.

How did this all happen?

***This happened because we serve a God who keeps His promises.***

## Advent Truth #3

Advent teaches us that God always keeps His **promises**.



And this brings us to Advent Truth #3 – **Advent teaches us that God always keeps His promises.**

We all like to have our promises kept. In fact it is the foundation of every good relationship.

Most of us do not have long lasting relationships with people who constantly lie, manipulate, and break promises.

We recoil from these types of people because we know there is little or no security in that kind of relationship. It will only ever be unstable.

But you see Church one of the wonderful things about our God is that **He is the God of promise.**

## 2 Peter 1:4

He has given us his **very great and precious promises**, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

According to 2 Peter 1:4

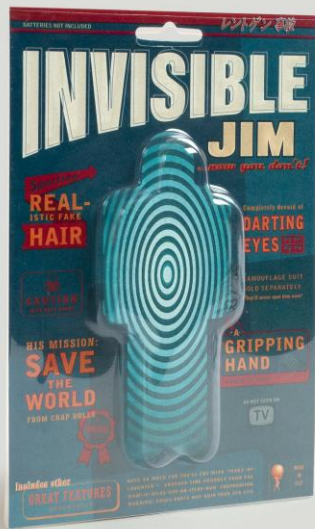
God has not just given us promises, *“he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”*

In other words God’s promises are given for a purpose. That through them you and I might live from the divine nature, as apposed to living by the standards of this corrupted world.

Because you see we will live in accordance with promises, its in our nature we are wired that way.

But often we trade the promises of a Holy God for the empty promises of this world.

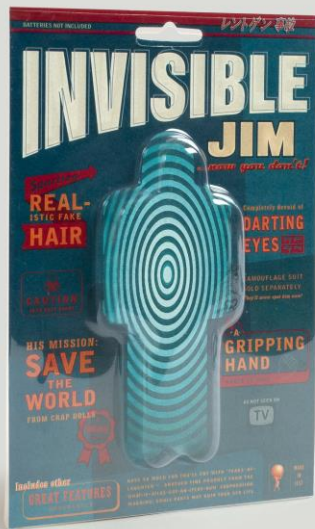
[pause]



Illus:  
Speaking of empty. Alright, I am about to show you the worst Christmas gift they are selling on the internet these days. This is Invisible Jim. I'm not joking.

An Australian. company has an action figure called Invisible Jim that is selling for \$15. Why is it called "Invisible Jim?" Because all you get is the packaging. There is no Jim. Here is the description on their website.

In this world of over-reliance on digital screens, why not force the kids to use their imagination with an action figure that doesn't exist – Invisible Jim. Take him on adventures in the jungle. The desert. Outer space. His adventures are not just limited by your imagination, it is a pre-requisite. He can have three arms with in-built lasers for all we care, it's up to you. (No extra charge for the third arm.)



Invisible Jim is kind of like the promises of this world...empty.

This world will promise you that money buys happiness.

That being beautiful gives you your truest significance.

That other flawed people can fill the hole in your soul.

There are countless empty promises that our world offers up...and the sad reality is that many will live a lifetime before they realize how utterly empty those promises truly are.

Conversely friends the promises of God are not empty.





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## The Gift of Security

There are 7,487 promises that God has made to mankind in the scriptures. 7,487 God is not messing around!

God's promises communicate His power and sustain our faith.

God's promises lift our gaze from the challenges we face in life and reminds us of His infinite love and His endless supply of grace.

You see friends God's promises reveal what is possible, they equip us to face life's obstacles with unshakeable confidence, knowing that God's promises cannot be broken.



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## The Gift of Security

And you see this is where a true sense of security comes from.

I remember when I was a kid, hopping onto bed with my parents when I was scared. All the fears of the boogey man melted away, because my mom was tougher than the boogey man (I knew she would take him out). We all wanted to sleep in our parents bed in those situations as kids because that is where we felt secure.

And similarly friends the 7,487 promises of God can wrap us in security for the rest of our lives if we allow them to.

There isn't a problem you currently have or will ever have that God's promises don't cover. But you see again, it is often our self reliance that impedes us from resting in that security.



# GIFT WRAPPED IN FLESH

## The Gift of Security

Illus:

You know Pastor Tim Keller once told a story that relates to this. Our propensity to rely on self. The story was about one of his mentors, a college professor named Dr. Addison Leach. There were two young women at the college who were both bright students of Dr. Leach. Their respective parents wanted them to get Master's Degrees and go on to careers. But, instead, they both became Christians. Both decided that they were going to become missionaries. Their parents had a fit. One of the mothers called Dr. Leach, thinking that Dr. Leach was one of the reasons that the girls had become (in the mother's words) "religious fanatics, rather than pursuing the course they had hoped, getting a career and having security. Instead, they were going to go wildly off into the blue." One of the mothers said, "We wanted our daughter to get a master's degree, start a career, and get something in the bank, so she could have some security."



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## The Gift of Security

Dr. Leach responded: Please just let me remind you of something. We're all on a little ball of rock called earth, and we're spinning along through space at zillions of miles per hour. Even if we don't run in to anything, eventually we're all going to die. Which means that under every single one of us there's a trap door that's going to open one day and we're all going to fall off this ball of rock. And underneath will either be the everlasting arms of God or absolutely nothing.

So maybe we can get a master's degree to get some security. But the biggest savings account in the world cannot stop cancer. It can't stop traffic accidents. It cannot stop broken hearts. It can't give you anything ... any of the things that God can give you.

HE IS THE GIFT OF SECURITY.



# GIFT WRAPPED IN FLESH

## The Gift of Security

And so if you are here this morning and you are In Christ...I think some of the takeaways from this are asking yourself am I reveling in the security Jesus Christ has afforded me?

Am I fixated on Him when trouble comes my way because I know I'm secure. Or am I still trying to do it myself, gaining security in what I do, what I can earn, who I can influence.

Will you surrender the security of what you think you can do, for the 7,487 promises of scripture that tell us WHAT HE WILL DO.

*[Pause: Invite the band back up as we close 2<sup>nd</sup> service only]*

If you are here this morning and you have not received the Advent Gift of Jesus into your life...there is no better time than now. 2022 is almost over, another year gone by. Do not allow more time to slip away.



# GIFT WRAPPED IN FLESH

## The Gift of Security

The Bible tells us in Romans 10:9 [that] ***if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.***

This will be the most important decision you ever make in your life. It will give you security in your present life and in eternity.

We celebrate ADVENT because Jesus came to Earth, but we must not forget that ***Jesus is coming again***, and when he arrives, WE ALL WANT TO BE APART OF HIS WELCOME PARTY.

**Pray:**