

December 7, 2021

**The Gifts Of Christ: We have access to the LORD by His grace.**

***Rom. 5:2 through Whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. (NIV)***

Before Jesus came and became our sin-debt offering, there was no access to the Father for us. Only the high priest had access to the presence of God, and that was once a year with great trepidation. I'm sure you have heard it said that grace is **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**. We now have a path made for us to come into the presence of our awesome LORD. It was made by the blood of the Son and now gives us unmerited favor and amazing grace. But not all have received this grace because it comes only by faith. It reminds me of a Christmas when I was in high school. My parents had secretly given me a present that I knew I could never receive; they paid for a ski-trip with our youth group. Although they had said all along that I couldn't go because it was too expensive, they made sacrifices for me to be able to go. On Christmas morning, we opened gifts as usual and there was only one gift left under the tree. It was fairly large and I had wondered who it was for because it didn't have a gift tag on it. My Mom told me to go open my last gift. I was excited because it was so large and rather heavy. To my consternation, when I peeled off the wrapping paper, it was a suitcase. I was puzzled. Were they trying to tell me to leave home? She then said open the suitcase. When I did, there were winter clothing items. It still didn't hit me until she said, "*We hope you will stay warm on the Youth Ski Trip!*" I will never forget that Christmas gift! It was on that very trip during one of our worship times, that I felt God's tug on my heart to the ministry.

Now my point of this story is this. Although there was a gift under the tree for me, I could have rejected it and said "*no thank you.*" I could have just left it sitting there, even though it had been purchased for me at a great sacrifice. It only became mine when I took it and opened it. In the same way, God's grace is for anyone who will believe. I pray that you have received His grace. Unlike my parent's gift, this gift cost the LORD everything; His very life.

**Dear LORD, what a price You paid for us. This truly is amazing grace. We don't deserve it, but we are so blessed to receive it. Thank You Jesus for what You have done for us. In Jesus Name, Amen**