



The Priceless Gift

Begin by singing: "Comfort, Comfort These My People" verses 1- 4, LSB 347, LW 28,

Read Luke 2:1-20.

"Comfort, comfort these my people, Speak of peace, so says our God. ... tell them that their sins I cover, That their warfare now is over."

Christmas-a-holics! We all know them. I even raised one. Not intentionally, mind you, but I did. She plays Christmas music all year long and when the world finally "catches up with her" (as she says), the radio or TV station that plays non-stop Christmas music is on in her home.

We love Christmas. Many of us can recite Luke's Christmas story from memory. We say "Merry Christmas," (not Happy Holidays) to everyone we meet. We know why we busy ourselves with many activities – caroling, giving of our time and money to charities, practicing with the choir, going out of our way to make and share special foods, buying well- thought out gifts for loved ones. And the most important thing we do is to remember God's fantastic Gift to us.

After the fall, God could have left us in our miserable, sinful state. We would have had no peace – just fighting and discontent and pain and struggle. Our sins would have overwhelmed us to the point that we would despair and live as pagans.

But, God was pretty wise you know. At just the right time, He sent us a Gift. It wasn't wrapped in fancy trimmings. In fact, that stable was fairly sparse with amenities. But the gift ... oh, the gift!! What a priceless treasure it is. Isaiah says our warfare is over. We don't have to fight our way through this tangled world of ours. We have peace. Imagine that! He gives us PEACE. Oh, the world may be in chaos, our families may be experiencing heartaches with children, our young neighbor's wife may die as they deliver the baby, our health may be deteriorating, and our jobs may be terminated, but **we can have peace**.

Why? Because our warfare is over. The evil one has been defeated. We have the best gift of all. We have a Savior who lives in us, who walks with us every day, who has restored our relationship with our heavenly Father, who sees us through everything.

So turn up those Christmas songs, shout "Merry Christmas!" and tell others about the wonderful gift that you have received so that they may also share this gift. Let your joy be unconfined. Happy are the people whose God is the Lord!!!

Sing "Comfort, Comfort These My People" verse 1 again, LSB 347, LW 28

Activity: Consider how you may give the following gifts to others this Christmas. Share your thoughts in your group.

- Your enthusiasm for our Lord
- Wonder at the miracle of Christ's birth
- Love for others
- Fun
- Contentedness in your life
- Pleasure
- Yourself as a gift
- Your faith

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