



Colossians 3:17

# Thank You Notes

The Newsletter of Giving Thanks Ministries

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## Giving Thanks for Christmas

Don's sermon Nov. 28 was titled "Preparing for Christmas." There seems to be so much to be done. Above shopping, cooking, wrapping, decorating, cleaning, or sending greetings, consider the preparation of your heart. Is your heart prepared for Christmas?

Galatians 4:4 tells us "*But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,...*" God prepared the world so He would send His Son at the chosen time.

Verse 5 gives the reason Christ came. "*to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.*" If you believe Jesus is your Redeemer, that He died on a cruel cross so you may live eternally in Heaven, and you repent of your sins, asking Him for forgiveness, you receive that adoption.

Verse 6 gives the result of your belief. "*And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'*" Your heart is ready for Christmas when you trust in Him completely! I pray that your heart is prepared for Christmas!

When your heart is ready for Christmas, then you are all set for the other aspects of celebration to begin.

### Prepare for a time of rejoicing!

Even the angels rejoiced at the birth of Christ! So rejoice with all the fanfare you can muster. Have a birthday party for Jesus. Watch and read uplifting stories of special Christmases. Make memories and traditions. Do not despair over the commercialization of Christmas—consider that the music in the stores, the Nativities sold on shelves, or the message you send in a card may be the only things some people hear about Jesus all year.

### Prepare for a time of loving!

Love on your family. Love on your neighbors. Love on those who do a service for you. Love on someone who will be alone for Christmas. Remember how much God loves you!

### Prepare for a time of giving!

Of course the greatest gift is found in John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." Giving to family and friends comes from your heart. Don't forget the wonderful charities like The Salvation Army or other non-profits. And missions is an important gift. To spread the gospel around the world through giving is a privilege. Your Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (Baptist) goes directly to missionaries' needs.

## Giving Thanks for Family



Donald and Heather continue to teach at Providence Christian Academy in Murfreesboro, TN, and he pastors Burt Baptist Church. Trey's construction management job moved him to Raleigh, NC. Grace and Zach attend Union University in Jackson, TN. Max is a senior at PCA where he is a leader on the basketball team and in student government.

Caroline coordinates reading and language arts K-5 for Fayette County Schools, and Scott teaches and coaches at Whitewater High School. Brennen (a freshman) punts for the West Virginia State University Yellowjackets, and Justin (a sophomore) plays JV basketball for the Whitewater Wildcats.



Joseph is a top real estate agent for Alan Tate and associate pastor at Next Level Church in Matthews, NC. Lisa works as facilities manager for Carmel Baptist church and coordinates their family.



Walker and Fletcher attend Queen's Grant High School. Walker is in the band, and enjoys his video games. Fletcher plays guitar in the praise band at church and works at Clean Juice. Cooper attends Queen's Grant Community School and plays basketball on the middle school team. Elliana attends Transitional Kindergarten at Carmel Christian School. She loves to play outside and to go to her gymnastics class.

**Merry Christmas and A Blessed 2022!!**



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“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” Colossians 3:17 NIV

### Giving Thanks for Ministry



Carver Road Baptist Church, Griffin, GA, let me tell them about *Growing in the Truth of God's Word*. Fun day! The next month Julius, the centurion who accompanied Paul to Rome came to Carver Road to tell his story.

Don is now interim pastor at Southside Baptist Church, Griffin, GA. In October I was privileged to be with the Woman's Missionary Union ladies. We talked about *Missions from A to Z*! I don't usually get to speak to men's groups, but the Brotherhood let me share my testimony with them.



The Georgia Baptist Evangelists displayed flyers and brochures at the November 8-9 meeting of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board at FBC Jonesboro. Don helped me when I took my turn at the booth.

The library committee of Fayetteville First Baptist sponsored a book signing for me in October. We enjoyed selling books and introducing new people to the large selection of books and resources they have.



I guess I was so excited to see the wonderful folks at FBC Centralia, MO, for the church's 150-year celebration in September I forgot to take any pictures!



The committee of ladies at Sunnyside Baptist Church in Newnan did a wonderful job planning their 20<sup>th</sup> Christmas Traditions event. Penny Miller and I enjoyed giving the program for them.

#### Looking Ahead:

- ✠ December 9—speaking at the Columbus Christian Women's Connection, Columbus, GA.
- ✠ December 18—Participate in a Christmas Market in Williamson, GA.
- ✠ February 9—Share about Mothers and Sons at a dinner for the Whitewater High School soccer team mothers and sons.