



Greetings in the name of Jesus this holiday season!

This is the time of year when we have so many options to include in our lives to help us celebrate the birth of Christ, that we are in serious danger of missing the wonder of it. Perhaps you will stop for a moment and enjoy a sweet thought with us.

This morning I was in the kitchen making Christmas cookies to share, and was listening to Christian radio. Many were speaking of the different characters in the Christmas story of Luke 1 and 2. As I thought of the women involved-Elizabeth and Mary to be exact, I was marveling again in the miracle of life God placed in two women who had a heart for God. The miracle of Life created in Elizabeth—who was well past hope in this area, and Life in Mary—who was before her time of expecting the creation of Life inside her. I had been thinking how unusual, and miraculous these circumstances were—certainly a miracle of God.

But as I thought of these ladies, and particularly of Mary, who carried the Messiah, I began to realize that Mary and I have a lot in common.

How? Age-wise, I have more in common with Elizabeth.

Where I live? No, we live in the States, not Palestine.

Life circumstance? No-I am not an un-wed mother.

No, What Mary and I have in common is being chosen to carry Jesus in us: “Christ in you the hope of glory” (Col. 1:27). Mary certainly had a different experience than I, carrying the Savior of the World in a physical manner. But Every person who has recognized and repented from their sin, realizing that Jesus died on the cross to fully pay for our penalty for sin, and asked him to be their Savior and Lord is like Mary, with the only difference being carrying Him spiritually within us.

Have you received this first, best Christmas gift? It is Jesus Himself, and eternal Life.

I Cor. 13:5 encourages us: “Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!” ESV

If so, we can say with the Puritan writer,

“In Him, Thou has given me so much that heaven can give no more.”

A Very **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and Expectant **NEW YEAR**

May each of you rejoice in this great blessing,

Doug and Cheryl Boisvert

