



Merry Christmas

December, 2017

Dear Friends:

I want to begin this message by wishing you and your family a very joyful and meaningful Christmas celebration. It's so easy to get our attention wrapped up in the busyness of the "season" that we sometimes miss what we're actually celebrating. And that would be sad.

After spending the better part of this past year leading a study in the book, *Knowing Christ*, I've become aware just how much I've been impacted by the truths communicated by the author, Mark Jones.

Although the book explores every facet of who Christ is, and especially the very essence of his deity as the *Son of God*, it also acknowledges that Jesus entered into an agreement with the Father and the Holy Spirit to provide a means of redemption by taking on human flesh.

Indeed ... he was born as a baby in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. And that is what we are about to celebrate. As the Apostle Paul reminds us: "*But when the right time came, God sent his Son, who was born from a woman and lived under the law.*" (Gal.4:4)

As we consider the incredible implications of the incarnation of the *Son of God* in the person of Jesus (i.e. he became **one of us**) ... we also read that "*God did this so that he could buy the freedom of those who were under the law. God's purpose was to make us his children.*" (Gal.4:5)

Imagine ... not only did Jesus purchase our freedom, setting us free from the power of sin and death, he also secured our "adoption" into God's family. We are "his children" because Jesus was willing to die in our place. Once again Paul reminds us that "*God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.*" (Eph.1:5)

Let's proclaim this Good News to the world. And let's celebrate!!

Yours for reaching the marketplace.

Carl