



GOD Who took on human flesh. WHO is this CHRIST?

King, Sovereign, Lord...

Redeemer, Savior, Sustainer...

the Truth, the Word, the Way...

Love, Life, Light, Lion...

Shepherd, Friend, Everlasting Father...

Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace...

the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world...

Judge, Conqueror, Deliverer...

Mighty, Majestic, Merciful, Messiah...

Emmanuel... GOD with us...

It is this CHRIST that we Praise and Honor this Christmas.

It is this CHRIST that is our Great Joy and Great Hope!



A Personal Message from Ray and Tressa:

2023 and 2024 have been years of great burden, and yet years of growth in grace.

Life as we know it can change in a moment. We can be strong and healthy one moment and weak and sick the next.

Ray has experienced these trials since his diagnosis of cancer in 2019 as well as injury to the discs in his lower back in July of 2023. Physically, he suffers daily with pain. What once was easy to accomplish now takes fortitude. BUT GOD!

Less than 1% of those diagnosed with Melanoma that has metastasized become free of cancer. After undergoing immunotherapy treatments, Ray has been free of cancer now for five years! He still suffers the side effects of the treatments [and unless God intervenes, he always will], but Ray still lives!

In addition, after two back surgeries in 2023 and infection in the spine, the experts say he shouldn't be walking! BUT, he does! In fact, he is once again able to live a normal life! Is his life free of pain? No! But he lives! And he lives better than he did before because THROUGH THESE TRIALS, GOD HAS TAUGHT RAY [AND TRESSA] MUCH ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO TRULY LIVE IN HIS ALL-SUFFICIENT GRACE!

Someone once said that earth's sorrows turn into heaven's blessings.

The LORD tries our faith through the trials of life to mature us in CHRIST. When we operate in our own strength, we can easily find ourselves trusting in and relying more on ourselves and our skills and less on the LORD. BUT our gracious GOD works through the trials of life to humble our self-reliant souls, and transfer our trust to HIM in everything in simple dependence...to be ready to persevere in HIS will and work and bear fruit to HIS glory.

**CONSIDER IT PURE JOY, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WHENEVER YOU FACE TRIALS OF MANY KINDS, BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH PRODUCES PERSEVERANCE. LET PERSEVERANCE FINISH ITS WORK SO THAT YOU MAY BE MATURE AND COMPLETE, NOT LACKING ANYTHING.
JAMES 1:2-4**



As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are travelers here on planet earth...travelers with a message of the grace of GOD in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The trials of life remind us that time is short. Tressa's Uncle Norman was fine on June 10th! He became seriously ill on June 11th and passed away from this life on September 29th. Oh, how we miss him. By GOD's grace, on August 15th he placed his faith and trust in CHRIST's redeeming grace for justification and reconciliation to holy GOD. What a merciful GOD!

Just a few days ago Tressa's aunt at the age of 92 passed into eternity. Time is short! How long do we and our loved ones have?! Are we doing the work of the LORD? Are we doing the will and work of the LORD in total reliance on the sufficiency and strength of CHRIST? Are our steps controlled by CHRIST and HIS Word (the Bible)? Are we witnesses in both life and lips of the Gospel of JESUS CHRIST?

Trials enable us to see if we have become too occupied with "self". Pain has the capacity to catapult us to CHRIST in our great need of HIS presence and peace and "the things of earth grow strangely dim in the light of HIS glory and grace."

Dear Ones, yes 2023 and 2024 have held many struggles and deep sorrow, but through these trials the power, majesty, wisdom, mercy, kindness and grace of our GOD and the infinite, eternal love of and from CHRIST has reached deep into the root of our hearts! As Charles Spurgeon once prayed: "Lord, paint upon the eyeballs of my soul the image of Your Son!" Well, we can honestly say that through 2023 and 2024, GOD has been using HIS paintbrush in new and real ways in our souls.



A WONDERFUL HIGHLIGHT FOR US WAS ON DECEMBER 10TH, we held a fellowship dinner with our local Bible Study participants! Sixty of us gathered and shared a meal together! We wish those from other states that join us each week via Zoom could have been with us — but they were in spirit. We did have some drive down from Pennsylvania!!! What a blessed time we all had together! The time of love and fellowship filled our hearts to overflowing. Unfortunately, we forgot to take pictures!!!

In closing, we are so very thankful to GOD and to you for your MANY prayers and support. You have no idea how much you have blessed us — and how much you have blessed others through the teaching of the Word that they may shine brightly Aflame for CHRIST full of HIS Light and Hope in a dark and difficult world.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas as you celebrate our LORD JESUS Who came into this world to die in our place so that we might truly live in HIM now and forever.

With much love,

Ray and Tressa



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Making Disciples Aflame for Christ filled with His Light and Hope.