


Madison Heights Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
 Merry Christmas
149 Main Street
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MADISON HEIGHTS MESSENGER

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All I Can Say Is Thank You

Once upon a time in a civilized world on the other side of the ocean, the society was filled with pagans. These people worshiped many different gods other than the one true God. They made idols out of the resources that God provided to them. God tolerated this for a while because God could count on the chosen people to worship God instead of the false gods while the rest of the world went its own way. Many times these chosen people would be tempted by desire and slip away from God. So, throughout history God used some specially chosen servants to get the people to repent and return to God. Sometimes the chosen people had attitude problems and God allowed their enemies to humble them, destroy their egos, break them down to the point of finally learning the painful consequences of transgression and repent.

The people changed from time to time depending on their environment and their degrees of prosperity. They experienced a cycle of failing to recognize whenever they were off track and they often implanted their own ideals into God's law. In time, they became rigid in its interpretation, strict in its enforcement. Eventually they got so far off track from being the people that God wanted the people to be that something special, something truly magnificent, was needed to get the people back on track with God.

God could choose to be a wrathful and punishing God but actually proved to the people that God is a wonderful loving God. So, God made them a big promise. God promised a special anointed servant that would free them forever. The Hebrew title is the Messiah, the Greek title is the Christ, and they both mean the Anointed One. God's promise to the people was told to them many times, over a period of several years, by special servants long before that special day came when the promise was fulfilled.

Many people stood around talking about his coming, waiting and watching with great excitement, anticipation, and hope. While they eagerly desired to receive this very special gift, many rejected it. They were focused on their own will, the things that they wanted, their concerns, their issues, and stuff. Though they knew the personal characteristics of our Lord and Savior they still were unable to recognize him.

The story continues today. We parallel the events of the past. Christians slip off track and fail to repent. The standards that framed the Christian faith have been diluted by self-serving desires and individualism. Today, many people refuse to recognize God much less obey the commandments.

We can look back and see the biblical events unfold and know that the prophecy has been fulfilled as it was foretold. This is the season to reflect on receiving the best gift ever. The very first Christmas present was given to us from God, for us from God, for people who have fallen from the will of God. What an amazing gift. All I can say is "Thank you." Being a Christian means being like Jesus to the world around us. You are to be like Jesus as best as you possible can in contemporary society.

Thank you,

George