



December 2019

Dear CWR/PTM Friend and Partner,

No priest, no theologian stood at the cradle of Bethlehem. And yet, all Christian theology finds its beginnings in the miracle of miracles, that God became human.—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, born in 1906, executed by hanging at the hands of German Nazis, April 9, 1945.

The Incarnation describes the “*miracle of miracles*”—when God became human, in the person of Jesus. The Incarnation describes God’s personal invasion into a dark, miserable, toxic world ruled over, infested and infected by sin and condemnation.

The Incarnation is the “*miracle of miracles*”—the stupendous historical event introducing a new way for humans to relate to God. It was the “miracle of miracles” when God made himself known so humanity could know him. In and through the Incarnation of Jesus, a new covenant is offered to humanity—a covenant like no other because it is not a contract.

The “*miracles of miracles*” is not, like the old covenant, a reciprocal, transactional business agreement filled with fine print detailing incentives, rewards, punishment and condemnation. The Incarnation, the new covenant, the miracle of miracles is *truly such a deal!*

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”—Matthew 1:23

The gospel of Jesus, the God-man, the Incarnated God with us, is the GOOD NEWS that God loves us anyway. The gospel of Jesus is the seemingly TOO-GOOD-TO-BE-TRUE NEWS that **we cannot sin God out of our lives.**

The birth of Jesus is the invasion of God into a world where imperfect and flawed humans always fail to measure up (which is pretty much every day). The birth of Jesus announces the beginning of the end for the rule of sin—whether the sin we commit or the sin that is committed against us.

The birth of Jesus proclaims a new way—a new covenant whereby our sin cannot excommunicate us from God’s grace—because of Jesus, sin cannot expel us (as it did with Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden) from God’s presence.

Of course, any human being is free to ultimately reject God, but because of Jesus the new covenant explains it will take far more than just doing bad things to reject God lock, stock and barrel. **Because of Jesus we cannot sin God out of our lives.**

The Incarnation, the en-fleshment of God in the person of Jesus, is God’s signatory promise of his commitment to be with us through all trials, difficulties, disease, loss, grief and heartache.

The “*miracle of miracles*” means that God is not apart from us because he is shocked and scandalized by our sin. The “*miracle of miracles*” means God will not abandon us if we don’t improve our behavior or completely overcome our addictions.

“WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, GREG?”

I *am saying* that in Jesus Someone greater and more sovereign than sin and punishment has invaded the world. Of course sin still carries consequences—but the Incarnation announces that sin is not the measuring stick of human relationship with God. The “*miracle of miracles*” means Jesus is the measuring stick of our relationship with God.

I *am saying* Jesus is a greater reality than death and the grave—he triumphed over sin and its consequences in his resurrection.

I *am saying* that Jesus invaded the world with the love and grace of God and sin is no longer the barometer or the measure of human relationship with God. Because of the *miracle of miracles*, we cannot sin God out of our lives.

Of course, as Christ followers we desire to quit sinning. We want to be better husbands and wives, parents and grandparents, children and grandchildren. We all wish to never, ever again hurt anyone we love. BUT,

1) As long as we are in this human flesh we will sin (1 John 1:8). We will hurt others, often those closest to us. We will fall short and we will fail.

2) Because of the Incarnation—and the subsequent life, death and resurrection of Jesus—the gospel of Jesus Christ is not centered on our efforts to achieve the impossible—to sufficiently fix ourselves and improve.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is centered in and on Jesus. God loves us even if we don’t get much better at dealing with some of our bad behaviors and addictions...because the bottom line of God’s love is Jesus, not our behavior. **We cannot sin God out of our lives!**

The Incarnation of Jesus is about God with us and about God for us. God is on our side... or perhaps better stated, by the grace of God and through Jesus, **we are on God’s side**. God is not against us, but rather he is pulling for us... accomplished by Jesus being with and in us, now and forevermore!

When we live lives apart from the grace and presence of God, we are always, at some level or another, trying to attain some righteousness by way of our striving.

When sin rules over us, we feel that we must prove to God that he should love us “because.”

When sin rules over us, we believe God’s love is conditional.

When sin rules over us, we want God to love us “because” of what we do.

When sin rules over us, we are forever fixated on saving ourselves, convincing God to love and accept us and presenting objective, legal reasons why we deserve his love.

When sin rules over us we are centered in our works and we are consumed by attempts to fix what’s wrong with us.

BUT—when we reject the rule of sin and instead trust, believe, embrace and accept Jesus, as our Lord and Savior, he now rules over us and in us and with us and for us. **When Jesus is our Lord and Savior we are no longer focused on getting things right, because we know that Jesus got it right for us**. Jesus not only “got it right” he, the very righteousness of God, lives within us as our risen Lord. He makes us righteous!

*“His divine power has given us EVERYTHING WE NEED FOR LIFE AND GODLINESS *through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.*”—2 Peter 1:3, my emphasis*

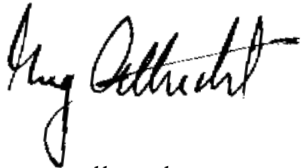
God has come to us, in the person of Jesus, not to condemn us but rather TO BE CONDEMNED. So this is Christmas—the grand and epic beginning of the love and grace of God, boldly announcing *“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”*—John 3:17

“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’” —Revelation 21:3

Merry Christmas one and all—may this entire month be a time of joy and celebration and thanksgiving for the fact that **we cannot sin God out of our lives!**

You are a treasured Christmas present to me and all those around the world we serve, most of whom who cannot afford to help us fund this ministry. They cannot give material gifts to help us in this ministry, but they offer prayers, fellowship and they join you and me as our brothers and sisters in this ongoing ministry of God’s amazing grace. Let’s talk more of Jesus and his love next year!!

Your brother in Christ,



Greg Albrecht
President, Plain Truth Ministries

PS. We share these notes of thanks from readers/listeners who have been helped by the ministry of CWR/PTM, which you help to provide through your offerings. Thank you for your support!

CWR/PTM has helped me in understanding the New Covenant a lot better, and in seeing Jesus as the center of everything. Please keep it up!—New York

We are so greatly blessed by your ministry! Thank you for the teaching you provide and for helping us better understand the Bible. I feel stronger than ever in Christ.—Puerto Rico

Thank you for all you do to be of spiritual assistance to so many. May the good Lord bless us all and draw us closer to Him.—North Carolina

Your Christ-centered ministry is very much appreciated! Keep up the mission, because more people than ever need to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ.—New Jersey

CWR/PTM Prayer List—December 2019

These requests for prayer represent just a few of the thousands we receive and pray for. We invite you to join us in praying for these and the others that space does not permit us to include here. Thanks for joining with us as a CWR/PTM Prayer Partner.

Please pray for my husband who is very weak and the doctors can't find what is wrong with him.—West Virginia

I am 75 years old and my mind is getting confused. I don't seem to be able to have a relationship with God. I would like one, but since he's invisible, it's really hard. —California

Please pray for me as I have kidney and heart issues. Thank you so much.—New York

I need prayers for pain in my back, left leg and both knees. I have a cousin suffering from liver failure – please pray for her to be healed. Thank you for always being here for us.—Tennessee

Please pray for my sister who had a stroke and is not improving!—North Carolina

I ask for prayer for my cousin who suffered a stroke several weeks ago.—Pennsylvania

Please pray for all those who are sick with allergies as I am. May God continue to be with all of you at PTM.—Louisiana

I started having serious back problems when I was 29. I am now 79 and have stage 3 kidney disease. Both my knees and both shoulders are very painful. I would deeply appreciate your prayers.—Georgia

I thank God every day for your CDs which my son passes on to me. I pray your ministry grows and continues to serve others for many years to come.—Minnesota

Please remember me in your prayers because I get ocular migraines without any warning.—New York

Keep up the good work. Our prayers are for all of you. We also pray for all people everywhere hoping they will see why they were born.—Pennsylvania

Please pray for emotional and spiritual stability for my mother and all the elderly.—Texas

Please pray for my friend who has cancer and for my wife to lift her up out of depression.—California

Both my friend and I are suffering with kidney problems. Please pray for us.—Canada

We need your prayers. I'm in a wheelchair due to Parkinson's Disease. My wife has health problems also.—Virginia

My son is undergoing dialysis due to kidney problems and my daughter is suffering with lung cancer.—Nevada

Please pray for the children and the needy that they find relief from hunger and malnutrition.—Colorado

Please pray that my heart pain that I have will be healed and that I'll be a blessing to my wife.—New York

Please pray for me as I will start radiation treatment in two weeks for prostate cancer.—Tennessee

I have a paraganglion tumor in my neck. It's very large and may cause a stroke or even death. I'm waiting to see the surgeon about it. Please pray for me.—Missouri

Please pray for my children and grandchildren that they will let go of the world and cling to God.—West Virginia

Please pray for my nephew who was in an accident and left a quadriplegic.—Ohio

Please pray for my A1C and blood sugar levels to go down. PTM has blessed me for many years.—South Carolina

My mother has shingles and she is in a lot of pain—please pray that God will ease her pain.—Illinois

Please pray for my granddaughter and her two little boys. She has addictions and also suffers from depression.—Tennessee

Our Father in Heaven: We thank you for your grace, mercy and love. You love each of these individuals, and we thank you in advance for the answers you will provide for each request. With thanksgiving for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, our suffering servant who heals us, in whose name we pray—Amen.