

**December 7, 2022**

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

***1 Tim. 1:15-17 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display His immense patience as an example for those who would believe in Him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen. (NIV)***

As we move towards the Christmas season, I am reminded each day to live for the purpose of Christmas. Although we give presents, spend time with family and celebrate the birth of Jesus, that is not what I believe the purpose of Christmas is really about. It is a time to remember and be grateful for the sacrifice the God has made by taking on flesh and dwelling among us. He did this so that in this world of sinners--of whom I am the worst, Christ Jesus came to save sinners. That is the meaning of Christmas for me. If He were not willing to come, to die as our sacrifice, to rise again, then we would certainly have no hope.

His mission to earth was two-fold: to come and save us from our sin and to set an example for us of His immense patience to anyone who would believe in Him. I'm so glad that our LORD is patient with me. I've flubbed up, messed up, and even chosen to sin in my life so many times, and yet He is patient with me. And He is patiently waiting for all people to turn to Him and experience that real and abundant life that He has in store for us. So I'd like to make a suggestion for a Christmas present this year. As the LORD puts someone on your heart, begin to pray for an opportunity to give the greatest gift this year to that person. The gift of salvation is the only eternal gift that will never fade away.

**Dear LORD, now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. In Jesus Name, Amen**