



Our vision at New Hope Baptist Church is:
to be a multiethnic family of faith,
united by God's grace,
remaining faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ,
growing in obedience to God's Word,
and
sharing the Gospel with a distinctive witness in word and deed.

December 2021... the Contact ... Vol. XLIII Issue 12

Rev. Jason Smith, Pastor...pastorjasonsmith@newhopecharlotte.org

2 Corinthians 8:9 "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich."

This is one of my favorite verses to reflect on during the Christmas season. In 2 Corinthians 8-9, Paul is addressing the subject of giving, encouraging the Corinthians to renew their commitment to generously meet the needs of the church of Jerusalem, who were a difficult time of poverty. We are not sure why. It could have been the result of the persecution or due to famines in the region, but Paul is not concerned about the reasons for their poverty. His desire is that the Corinthians meet the needs of the church of Jerusalem and to view it as a blessed opportunity to practice their faith. Christmas is called the "season of giving." In 2 Corinthians 9:7, Paul writes, "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, nor reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." While we should always be mindful of what truly constitutes as a "need," still, generous joyful giving is always an appropriate way to celebrate this wonderful time of the year.

But in 2 Corinthians 8:9, to motivate the Corinthians to give sacrificially to help the poor saints in Jerusalem, Paul points them to the most generous, most gracious, and most important giver of all, Jesus Christ, the divine giver. Jesus is the ultimate example of giving and his gift came in the form of the incarnation in which we celebrate at Christmas. In fact, we should celebrate Him year around.

Jesus became poor for our sake. Paul is not speaking of Jesus' earthly ministry, though from all accounts, Jesus was not wealthy during his earthly ministry. Rather, Paul is speaking about the incarnation. Jesus became poor by becoming a man, by taking on mortal life. In Philippians 2, Paul described it as Jesus emptying himself. The splendor and glory of heaven makes the best of earthly existence nothing more than poverty. The eternal God became poor, humbling himself by becoming a man, but not just a man, but a slave, and not just a slave, but a slave who would die on a cross for our sins, making our salvation possible.

Therefore, as Paul writes, through the poverty of Christ, we become rich. So, if "poverty" is not primarily a reference to Jesus' economic status, then the wealth we receive from Him should not be understood as primarily a reference to our economic status. The great wealth we receive in Christ is our salvation. No amount of money or earthly wealth can buy what we receive in our Lord Jesus Christ. In Christ, we receive forgiveness, joy, peace, glory, honor, and hope of heaven to come. But even these blessings fail to fully convey how wealthy we are in Christ. It is not just about how we benefit from Christ. The true blessing is to know Christ himself; to know his gentle and loving embrace.

This Christmas, give joyful and sacrificially, but more importantly, love Jesus. Spend time with him. Pray and read his Word. Only once you have done that can you truly share Him with others including your family.

In Him Pastor Jason

nbbcchar@att.net



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Deacons on Call

December 5

Don Jordan

December 12

Jim Hartis

December 19

Jeff Smith

December 26

Gerald Freeman

Calendar of Events

Standing Weekly Schedule Sunday

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday
Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Join us on Facebook

1st and 3rd Saturday 10:00 a.m.
H4F (Hope for Families-cloths & food)

Birthdays for December

12/14

Linda Evans

12/16

Jane Allen

12/28

Wanda Hartis

Erin B. Price

12/29

Frank Norton

Operation Christmas Child Report

Yard Sale - Proceeds \$438.01

Boxes Made - 306



Church Council Team Meeting

Sunday, Dec. 12th

Immediately following
the

AM Service

We will have homemade

soups at the

Family Life Center

and discuss the calendar

events for

January

February

March

2022

If you would like to fix a
pot of soup, please call the
church office

704.537.6340

Sunday

*You don't
want to
miss this!*



December 12th

*A Christmas Celebration
with
Jennifer & Barrett
Barbee*

*From the Birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, to
the Cross and then to the Resurrection that
provided for each of us the*

Gift of Eternal Life,

*I would like to wish you all a
Very Merry Christmas!*

Love! Your secretary – Carolyn Davis