**Isaiah 52:7-10** How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” **8** The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. **9**  Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. **10**  The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

**1 John 4:7-16** Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. **8**  Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. **9** In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. **10** In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12**  No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. **13**  By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. **14** And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. **15**  Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. **16** So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

**John 1:1-14** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3**  All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **4**  In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5**  The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. **6** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. **8**  He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. **9**  The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. **12** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. **14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

God is no Grinch; He has given us His Son.

* Who is He?
* What Make Him glorious?
* How can He make a difference?

 In the Name of Jesus Christ our blessed Lord and Savior. Amen. Dr. Seuss was an author of children’s books written in rhyme. A most famous story of his is, “How The Grinch Stole Christmas.” You remember, it right? A Grinch lives alone with resentment toward those in the town of Whoville. To end their joyful spirit the Grinch hatches a plot to steal Christmas. After the achieving his goal to remove all their festive foods, gifts, and decorations, the Grinch waits to see what happens on Christmas morning. Despite his best efforts, the Who’s still celebrate and sing, even if they have nothing. The Grinch has a change of heart at such a wonder, returns everything he stole, and even ends up being at the seat of honor to carve the roast beef.

 This story makes a powerful point about giving, especially at Christmas. Nobody likes a Grinch, not even the Grinch. This name even made it into the dictionary. Grinch is, “One who spoils the pleasure of others.”[[1]](#footnote-1) If we consider Christmas on these terms alone a false impression arises. Grinches had better change if they know what is good for them. Who’s have an in to heaven because of their giving spirit. Works of men overshadow the kindness of God to save. Of course, the story of Christmas is more than a historical account of Christ born of the Virgin Mary. St. John the apostle tells us what has changed for all time. “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” God is no Grinch; He has given us His Son.

 Who is Christ? More than any good person you find in the town of Whoville. “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” This Word was with God at that beginning of creation. The Word is God that brought creation into existence. The Word did not distant Himself from a world fallen into darkness. The Word born in our flesh came as the sinless Son of God. The Word dwelt among us and His Name is Jesus.

 More than being good, God in the flesh has no need to snub His nose at us. His goal is not to scare us into submission so we do our duty. His joy is far from looking at the sorry estate of our affairs. His peace is better than what works of men proclaim. St. John says who Christ is by what He does, “In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

 The fact is God is no Grinch. Yet, since only Christ is the Word made flesh. It means all other are Grinches caught in sin. Oh, we might think the opposite. So long as we do some good, look good, feel good we must be good. However, you cannot get rid of that Grinch who is distant, selfish, and greedy. Even St. Paul is open to admit, “For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. (Romans 7:18).

 What makes Jesus glorious and no Grinch? Christmas declares His love comes to save. The manger tells us God gives all. “…We have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father…” God knows about our Grinchiness wanting to steal Christmas or anything else. Christ is the perfect sacrifice sent for sinners. God already gives you everything in His Son. This is glory poured out in baptism, given at His Supper, and by hearing His Word. To trust in Jesus is the gift better than being a Who in Whoville. With Him, you can love with a love born from God.

 God is no Grinch; He has given you His Son. It means everything has changed. Love is the Word become flesh. The foundation for loving our neighbor is because God is with us! How can Jesus make a difference? In every way, since He is, “full of grace and truth.” The incarnation brings clarity to life. Where the grinch of a sinner sees a fallen creation, Christ shows us how to enjoy and use the gifts of this world. He confirms what is good from God for us in life.

 The incarnation comforts us beyond what creation can give. Christ conceived and born without sin, means He makes us sons of God. Jesus came with all fullness of grace, so none would be empty. “For our sake (God) made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Cor 5:21). Say “goodbye” to whatever your grinchy pains felt in your life. Christ has paid the price in full. Rather than living in Whoville, He has made you a part of His kingdom that has no end.

 The incarnation lets us celebrate what Isaiah says, “the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem…” Christmas calls attention to the Spirit of how God gives. His still carries it out in this world by the Word and Sacrament. Like at the manger, Christ makes Himself known to us today in these humble gifts. The spirit of giving always comes with Christmas. Certainly, it is a blessing when we share in it, but may it never be at expense of Christ. God is no Grinch; He has given us His Son. Amen. Blessed Christmas celebration for the Word has become flesh and dwells with us. Amen.

1. http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/grinch?s=t [↑](#footnote-ref-1)