Devotion for Christmas

Psalm 89:1-8

I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

For I said, 'Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.'

You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your throne for all generations."

Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

For who in the skies can be compared to the Lord? Who among the heavenly beings is like the Lord?

A God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all who are around Him.

O Lord God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O Lord with your faithfulness all around you?

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen

Isaiah 52:1-12

Beautiful Feet Bring Good News

- 1) What spiritual oppression is symbolized by Egypt and Assyria?
 - 2) What garments does Jesus clothe the church with?
 - 3) What is the good news?

John 1:1-18

The Word Became Flesh

- 1) Why is Jesus called the Word?
- 2) How does Jesus enlighten us?
- 3) What does it mean to be children of God?

"Beautiful Feet?"

Do you have beautiful feet? Are you comfortable wearing sandals or going barefoot in the summer? Are you private with your feet? Do you wear socks and shoes even at the beach? No matter how our feet look, or how we think they look, <u>Christians are blessed with beautiful feet</u>. Our feet are beautiful, because we are blessed with a beautiful message to share; the good news of God's love and salvation in Jesus. Big, little, calloused or smooth, feet are beautiful when they carry the beautiful message that Christ has come, conquered death by His death and now brings eternal life to us through the good news of forgiveness received through faith in His Name.

Consider the feet that have brought you the good news throughout your life! Beautiful feet brought the gospel message to us in our infancy, in our childhood and throughout our adult lives. Jesus blesses us with beautiful feet that we may share the good news of salvation with others, so that as Isaiah said, "all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God." The Lord bless our feet, so we may share the news of His birth and the good news that everyone who looks to Him in faith and calls upon His name, will be blessed with forgiveness in time and life in eternity. How beautiful are the feet that bring good news of salvation in Jesus' Name! A blessed Christmas! Amen

"Silent Night" (Public Domain)

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven a far,
Heavenly host, sing alleluia!
Christ, the Saviour is born! Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from your holy face.
With the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Prayer

Dearest Lord Jesus, your birth was foretold by the prophets. Isaiah sang, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Your birth was heralded by angels. The night you were born the angel said: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord." Your resurrection was announced by the women who followed you and proclaimed throughout the world by the apostles you sent to speak the gospel of forgiveness. Thank you for the good news of salvation in your Name. Thank you for the feet that brought us the good news. Bless our feet to run and share the good news of forgiveness and heavenly peace through faith in your name. In your name. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen

The Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Benediction Isaiah 54:8

"In overflowing anger for a moment, I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you, says the Lord your Redeemer."

Bible Knowledge Quiz

- 1) Why were Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem when Jesus was born?
- 2) Why did Joseph take Mary and Jesus to Egypt?
- 3) When did Joseph feel comfortable returning to Nazareth?

Answers to Last Week's Quiz

- 1) Cana of Galilee (John 2:1-12).
- 2) Bethany near Jerusalem (John 11:1).
- 3) Sychar in Samaria (John 4:1-45).