

Wrapping Paper

Orlando Tolentino

Imagine how many wrapping paper people use during Christmas, New Year and Birthday - some are expensive; some are not. We are usually excited to open first the gifts that are wrapped beautifully for our mentality is that we are drawn to shiny, beautiful objects. We often equate the value of what is inside with what is reflected on the outside. But surprise! This sometimes is not the case, for some wonderful gifts are wrapped in inexpensive, inelegant materials.

The birth of Jesus is like a wrapped gift to us: the wrapping is not expensive, but what is inside is beautiful in its simplicity and complexity. At the first glance, it seems that his birth is insignificant as he was born not in a palace or grand house, but in a manger surrounded by farm animals and simple, poor people. Yet his birth symbolizes God's immense love for us and a grand plan for men's salvation through His Son.

Jesus - born in a manger within the stable cave in Bethlehem (Bethlehem means "the house of bread"), conceived by Holy Spirit through Mary His mother - is God's

ultimate Christmas gift, and the greatest gift we will ever receive. Jesus Christ came into this world to save us all from our sins. He is the way, truth, and the life. He showed us his great love at this very moment. He chose to reveal Himself to all of us. He wants us to pour out our hearts

to Him. He allows us to enjoy in seeking Him, so let's not be discouraged in seeking Him out - even though life throws us challenges every day. We find hope and comfort through God and Christ Jesus so that we may face and eventually overcome these trials.



What gift will you give to Jesus on his birthday? I hope that you will have the same excitement and enjoyment when Christ opens the gifts from your heart.

Jericho 29:13 says that "You will seek [Him], and you will find [Him] because you will seek [Him] with all your heart".

My brothers and sisters in Christ, I wish you all the love, hope, peace and joy in 2014. May the Spirit of God enfold you in His Love. 