

Hymn 143:  
*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

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# ADVENT Week #2

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*LOVE*

1 What we deserve for Christmas:



# 1 What we deserve for Christmas: God's Wrath



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To understand God's Love,  
we must first understand His anger.

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Before we can appreciate the God we have,  
we must first understand the mess we are in.

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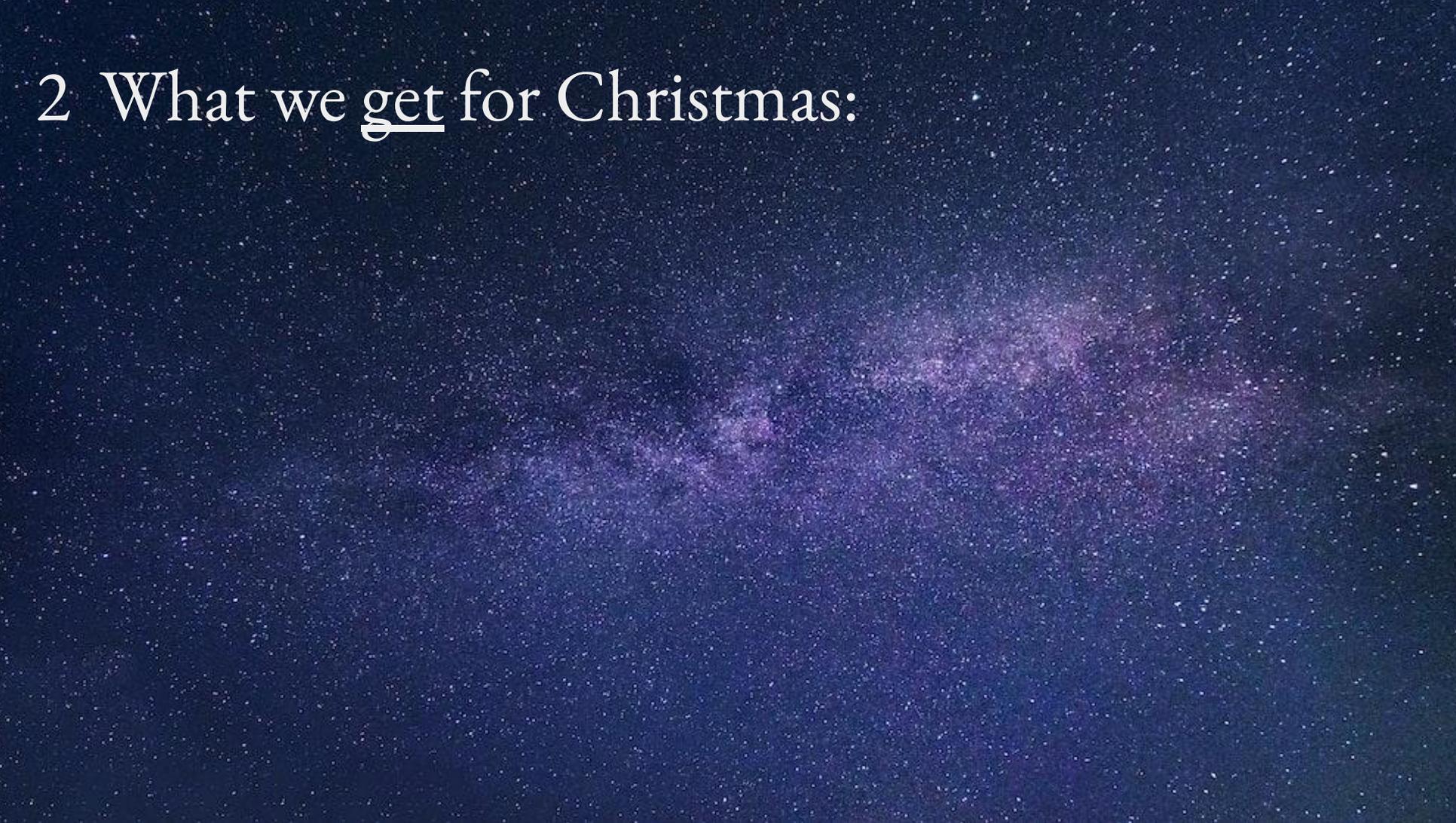
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we must first understand the mess we are in.

Romans 1:1 - 3:20

“Christianity is the one ‘non-religion’ among all the world’s religious systems. While religions demand our work, effort, ability, and duties, Christianity demands brokenness.

We come to a cross and recognize that this is what our very best is worthy of receiving. Our very best efforts over a lifetime are worthy only of the worst punishment imaginable. Brokenness, humility, and dependence are our only hope.” — Merle Mees

2 What we get for Christmas:



## 2 What we get for Christmas: God's Love



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Romans 3:21-26



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Eph. 2:5

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Rom. 4:5

(John Stott: “the most startling statement in Romans”  
= “Who justifies the ungodly”)

## 2 What we get for Christmas: God's Love

Romans 3:21-26

Eph. 2:5

2 Cor. 5:17

Rom. 4:5

(John Stott: “the most startling statement in Romans”  
= “Who justifies the ungodly”)

Galatians 4:4 -

“When the fulness of time came,  
God sent forth His Son,  
born of a woman...”

“God’s unfailing love for us is an objective fact, affirmed over and over again in the Scriptures.

It is true whether we believe it or not.

Our doubts do not destroy God’s love, nor does our faith create it.

It originates in the very nature of God, who is love, and it flows to us through our union with His Beloved Son.”

– Jerry Bridges

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“ People can abuse God’s goodness.”

“ People will take it to an extreme.”

“There has to be some moderation.”

“Grace is risky!”

“ People can abuse God’s goodness.”

“ People will take it to an extreme.”

“There has to be some moderation.”

This is the cry of the pragmatist in Rom. 3:31

“What about the LAW???”

Illustration:

Katherine has a credit card with HER name on it.

On MY account.

## Illustration:

Get it straight: Someone who sees grace as permission to sin has missed grace entirely.

*Mercy understood is holiness desired.*

“[Jesus] gave himself for us so he might pay the price to free us from all evil and to make us pure people who belong only to him—people who are eager to do good deeds.” (Titus 2:14)

Illustration:

Abused Grace is better than Abundant Legalism!

Application:

Luke 1:68-79

A new day has dawned upon us!

The promise to Abraham is fulfilled!

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Why?

## Application:

Luke 1:68-79 Zacharias' prayer:

“He delivered us, *so that* we might serve Him faithfully”

“To live in holiness and righteousness”

“To give to His people the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins”

“Because of God's tender mercy, to guide us in peace and light”

Application:

What gift can I give for Christmas this year?

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What gift can I give for Christmas this year?

I can give God's love, demonstrated through my grace towards others. How can I allow the grace that God shows me to flow through me to others who *also do not deserve* God's kindness, mercy, or love?

