

“A REALITY CHRISTMAS TREE”

1 Peter 2:24

Selecting and decorating a Christmas tree is a holiday tradition for many families. Growing Christmas trees is big business in the United States. For most of us, Christmas isn't the same without a tree! Today, we examine three benefits that God provided for all of us through God's ultimate “Christmas tree.”

1. Jesus Provides The Payment For My Sin

“He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree...” 1 Peter 2:24a

“Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation.” Colossians 1:21-22

“...Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” Hebrews 9:22b

“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.” 1 Peter 1:18,19

2. Jesus Provides The Power Over Sin

“...So that we might die to sins and live for righteousness.” 1 Peter 2:24b

“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.” 1 John 3:8

“Having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.” Colossians 2:15

“Since the children have flesh and blood, (Jesus) too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death - that is, the devil.” Hebrews 2:14

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20

“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” Hebrews 4:16

3. Jesus Provides The Promise Of What’s Ahead!

“... By His wounds you have been healed.” 1 Peter 2:24c

“But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5

“Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him!” Romans 5:9

“Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body.” Philippians 3:20-21

CONCLUSION

- Have I received what God provides for me through Jesus?

PRIMARY RESOURCES USED FOR THIS SERMON INCLUDE:

“God’s Christmas Tree” by James Merritt

“The Cross is God’s Christmas Tree” by J. Vernon McGee

“The Tiger in You” by Paul Edwards