



Part 4

The Christmas Orange

Isaiah 53:2 – 3 – ² He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. (NIV)

1. God has given us _____

He is Immanuel – God _____ us.

Matthew 1:22 – 23 – ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel,” which means “God with us.” (NIV)

Hebrews 2:14 – 18 – ¹⁴ Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. ¹⁵ Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.

¹⁶ We also know that the Son did not come to help angels; he came to help the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested. (NLT)

2. God has given us the gift of _____

re·con·cil·i·a·tion

the ending of conflict or renewing of a friendly relationship between disputing people or groups

Encarta® World English Dictionary © 1999 Microsoft Corp

Colossians 1:15 – 20 – ¹⁵ Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, ¹⁶ for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him.

¹⁷ *He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.*

¹⁸ *Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything.*

¹⁹ *For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, ²⁰ and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. (NLT)*

Colossians 2:13 – 14 – ¹³ You were dead because of your sins . . . Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴ He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. (NLT)

3. God has given us an _____

Acts 2:22 – 24 – ²² People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. ²³ But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. ²⁴ But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip. (NLT)

Romans 8:31 – 34 – ³¹ What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ³² Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? ³³ Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. ³⁴ Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, interceding for us. (NLT)

in·ter·cede

1. to plead with somebody in authority on behalf of somebody else, especially somebody who is to be punished for something
2. to speak in support of somebody involved in a dispute
3. to attempt to settle a dispute between others

Encarta® World English Dictionary © 1999 Microsoft Corporation.

Enjoy your very own Christmas Orange together

- Save your oranges until you can sit down and eat them together.
- While you're eating them remember that life is just like an orange . . . a mixture of tangy sweetness.
- Talk about the "tangy" times you experienced this past year. What are some of the challenges you faced and what can . . . or have you learned from them? And rejoice that you made it through them!
- Talk about the "sweet" times of the past year and thank God for them.