

December 28, 2005

Benjamin,

*This is a day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it*

A familiar tune that has been sung in children's church and similar gatherings for a long time; a simple message, but truly valuable to all of us as a reminder that every day is a gift from God as life and life eternal are as well. There are so many gifts that we may *take for granted* or assume - truly, are very being is a gift from God. And so, the Lord has made this day as many days since his creation...that first day - let's rejoice together if at all possible in our separation.

At this time, we give special tribute to the birth of Christ by whose existence has fulfilled the New Covenant between God and man. Christ has been the ultimate and final sacrifice in atonement for all man's sin - past, present, and future. Only through Christ can we be redeemed and made anew in our heart - a heart cleansed by the word of God and made anew in the likeness of Christ. This is why we also sing:

*In to my heart, in to my heart, come in to my heart Lord Jesus;  
Come in today, come in to stay, come in to my heart Lord Jesus...*

When he enters our heart, there is a dynamic change that begins by which we are *transformed into the likeness of Christ*. No longer held in our the chains of sin, we have been set free from Satan and his power - not by our own power or soul, but by God through Jesus with the indwelling of his Holy Spirit.

Thus for you, your sister and brothers, my heart cries that you will know Jesus - that he loves you beyond your imagination and ability to know at this time. Yes Ben, he loves you with all of his heart - a heart of God the Father.