



He gave His own Son as a ransom for us. He gave the holy One for transgressors. He gave the blameless One for the wicked. He gave the righteous One for the unrighteous many, the incorruptible One for the corruptible, the immortal One for those that are mortal. For what else was capable of covering our sins other than His righteousness? By what other way was it possible that we, the wicked and ungodly, could be justified, than by the only Son of God? O sweet exchange! O unsearchable work! O benefits surpassing all expectation! that the wickedness of many should be hid in a single righteous One, and that the righteousness of One should justify many transgressors!

Mathetes, writing to Diognetus in AD 130

A Happy Christmas to you from Middle Tennessee! Another year has come and nearly gone, seemingly in the blink of an eye. We both hit the 60-year-old milestone this year (actually, she's sixty and I'm sixty, too 😊), and are *maybe* starting to feel our age, just a little. We celebrated our anniversary by attending a funeral in Georgia, followed by a wonderful stay at a 100-acre farm B&B that we were thankful to book on short notice.

Other than a lot of travel this year, our retirement routine seems to have settled in nicely. Ed is still pianist and has been teaching Sunday School at our little country church; he's also done several Bible distributions with the Gideons. We enjoy going to a weekly Bible Study at another church, too, made up of mostly 'seniors.' Beth's kitchen garden kept us in fresh greens, peppers, blueberries and watermelons throughout the summer, and Ed planted a separate garden for potatoes, okra, sweet corn and additional tomato plants to supplement Beth's. He also finished his shop building, and we spent a sweaty couple days moving his 'junk' out of the garage.

It was a joy to again work with Beth's brother Mark and his wife Betty, as well as Tyler and Samantha at Camp Rise and Shine. The theme was "Searching for Clues," and Ed was "Sgt. Joe Thursday" for the week. Ty, Mark and 'G'pa Scott' had far too much fun playing a number of roles in the skits, and put together a fun video shown on the last day. We were shocked when Scott passed suddenly in October, but rejoice because we know he now worships Christ by sight.

It was a blessing to Beth this year to be able to travel and visit with each of her three brothers and two sisters (and one of Ed's brothers), who are spread across the East coast from MA to FL, and also visit in the homes or vacation spots of most of our nieces and nephews from ME to FL. Lord willing, we can catch up with the others in the near future. It was also fun for Beth, after 30 years, to visit in person with her former college roommate and Matron of Honor in NH. We are so blessed with the many friends and family here and around the world that we've been able to connect with in our home, their homes, church houses, restaurants, and by phone, mail, or email.

May the LORD bless and keep you in 2023!

With our love,
Ed & Beth



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