

*Wrapped in Him*I. Slide1-3 **Quick Announce:**

A. Merry Christmas: Going Inside: Starting this Sunday 12/27, 9&11am [& Wed nights]

1. 3 ways to worship: [1] comfortable outside, we'll have a section set up w/ TV's. [2] Inside we'll have the whole *left section* for **masks**. [3] Everyone else, *restaurant protocol* (masks in & out).

2. **Calvary Kids** will *check in* your office. **Then straight to gym**.

B. Prayer:

II. Slide4 **INTRO** *Wrapped in Him*

A. Which is your **favorite blanket** to be wrapped in at home? **Wrapped!** we have, presents wrapped, or unwrapped, or rewrapped. Things are under wraps. Shrink wrap. My favorite, anything *Bacon wrapped!* **And** the person who does gift-wrapping is a wrapper, **As is...** *Chance the rapper*.

Slide5 We even have *anti-anxiety Jackets* for *our pets* to be wrapped in.

1. **But** we're going to be *unwrapping the Christ of Xmas...* and then wrapping **ourselves** in Him.

B. Slide6 Luke 2:7 *And she* (Mary) *gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.* How do you **wrap**, or *swathe, bundle up, or swaddle*, an Indescribable gift?

C. **Outline:** He was wrapped. And then, We are wrapped (*in Him*).

III. Slide7 **HE WAS WRAPPED**

A. Slide8 **Julian** our brand new grand baby (only 6 days old) loves to be *swaddled*. My daughter has him wrapped *tighter than a Chipotle Burrito...and he loves it!*

1. **Why** do you think? The **tight womb** that he's been in for 9 months?

2. I'm sure it makes him feel **secure** & **safe**...in his "**swaddle**".

B. **Slide9a** The swaddling cloths were important to the Christmas story.

1. The custom of the East was to wrap the new-born in **these strips of cloth**. But only after **washing the baby's body** and protecting the baby with the healing properties of **powdered salt**. (see Ezek.16:4) Like today this binding prevented the baby from hurting himself **by kicking or scratching or rolling over**.

C. **Jesus was...1st wrapped** in swaddling cloths as a **helpless baby**. (God showing up in the *fetal* position. *Tethered* to his mommy)

Next He **wrapped** Himself in a towel as a **humble servant**. (washing feet)

Then He was **wrapped** again in swaddling cloths **for his burial**.

And one day, He will be wrapped in a cloud. **Mighty, coming again in Glory!** Rev.10:1

D. **Slide9b** *He was wrapped* [series]

1. **Jesus** came **Wrapped in History** (came at perfect timing).

2. **Jesus** came **Wrapped in Prophecy** Jason (they told us He was coming)

3. **Jesus** came **Wrapped in Mystery** Dan (many were puzzled not expecting a baby) **OT concealed/NT revealed**.

4. **Jesus** came **Wrapped in Humanity** Andrew (the God/man).

a) He was 1st wrapped, **so that** He might wrap us...

IV. **Slide10 WE ARE WRAPPED ... IN HIM!**

A. Years ago, my friend **Mark Cipres** bought me a coat. It was huge Parka. *More like a sleeping bag with arms*. I wore it to the Ukraine (see pic), but by the color of my hair it was long ago. It was such a warm coat that I was rarely in such a cold environment to be able to use it. **Fast Forward to 2019**. I'm leaving to Nepal in a few days, when I get a text from Jaya, my pastor friend from Nepal. *The winter is coming on, please bring me a coat*. I didn't have time to order something. It's freezing cold where he lives in the far north of Nepal. I'll give him my Parka as it is

still in perfect condition. I bring it, He loves it, and by the next morning, His wife Sarah is wearing it (it was cold). [recently Jaya writes me]

1. *Dear pastor, praise the Lord, Last year you brought a jacket to me which was very warm. Dear pastor, Nepal's winter has started. So Kathmandu is very cold now, and at my place. When I wear the jacket you gave me, I get very warm. When I don't wear the jacket I felt very cold. Dear pastor your love for me is like that jacket, it keeps me very warm.*
2. **I responded:** Thank you dear Pastor, as you share this with me, this warms my heart. As your jacket is wrapped around you, it is like my arms giving you a big hug. I can't wait for that day to see you & hug you again. Hopefully soon. Lord heal both our country's from Covid.

B. **Slide11a** Paul said, Love always protects! (1 Cor.13:7).

1. *We hide - God seeks. We bring sin - He brings a sacrifice. We bring our dirty clothes - He brings us a robe of righteousness. Slide11b And we are left to sing the song of the prophet, He has covered me with clothes of salvation and wrapped me with a coat of goodness.*
Isaiah 61:10

- a) *Love always protects.* Protect conveys the ideas of Covering with a cloak of love. Covering with encouragement. Covering with tenderhearted care. Covering someone with concern.
- b) *Ever thought of your Creator as a clothier?* He has given you your finest cloak, *a cloak of love.*

C. **Here is the - So What?** (wrapped in him?)

D. **Slide12,13** *Your life is now hidden with Christ in God.* Col.3:3

1. **2 Prepositions:** **With** = accompanied by. **in** = something contained.
2. **Hidden** implies **concealment** and **safety**; **invisibility** and **security**.
We are secure and safe in Christ.

a) **Listen:** That *doesn't mean* something can't happen to us **physically** or **emotionally**, it means **spiritually, eternally** we are *signed, sealed, & delivered*. *We are wrapped...with Jesus - then...in God*. [eg. **Tamale** - we are the **green salsa**, Jesus is the **meat**, & we are stuffed in God the Father/**masa**]

3. It's also **Hidden** from man's observation (**imperfect** tense - stresses *ongoing effects*) Our lives have been **hidden** with Christ's, and they remain that way.

E. **Slide14** That about *Wraps it up*.

1. One of the hardest moves to make *when your falling in love with someone* is to *ask her out, take her hand, or express...you like her*.
2. **Yet Jesus has boldly made it so clear...He-likes-you!** He came to earth to find a **bride** and He says, **I'll take you!** (with all your blemishes, mistakes, your past). **And** now He waits, and asks, **will you take me?**

F. This is **the love story of the bible** that's been coming since the beginning...don't brush it off. He comes **wrapped as a gift** this Christmas & asks...**Will you take me?**

G. **Bibles up front.**

H. **Key Words:** Wrapped in Him, wrapped, Christmas, swaddle, birth, baby, glory.