

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS FOR 2018 LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

For the next 23 days we will be examining the names and titles of Jesus in the New Testament. In the process we will be heeding the Apostle Peter's twofold command as he concluded his second epistle: *"But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* (II Peter 3:18) These two directives are closely related, for Jesus is the absolute personification of grace; to grow in our knowledge of *our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ* is to *grow in grace*.

In his letter to the church in Philippi, the Apostle Paul stated that nothing in all of life was more important to him than knowing Christ: *"Whatever things were gain for me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ."* (Philippians 3:7-8) My prayer is that we too, during this Advent season, will experience a passion to know our Savior and Lord more intimately than ever before.

Because Jesus is God in human flesh, we should not be surprised that God's Word employs numerous names and titles to describe His character, His attributes, and His mission in coming to earth. If you are a parent and plan to use this with your children (and I hope you will), I suggest that you first read it yourself so you will know how to adapt the content to the level of your children's understanding. Most importantly, let your children know that your goal is to get to know Jesus better.

Because of grace – ***Pastor Tom***