2 Corinthians 5:17: Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

I’d like to think that Jesus’ birth was the first Christmas present.

He is God’s gift of grace.

First of all, we need to ask what grace is.

As Christians we always throw around these Godly words.

It seems sometimes they lose their meaning.

Have you heard these kids nowadays?

I mean, I’m only 31 but these kids use words like literally figuratively.

They say things like, “I’m literally so tired I’m going to die.”

No, you’re not.

Or, “I’ve literally seen that movie a thousand times.”

No, you haven’t.

Do you even know what literally means?

Because you are literally using it wrong.

I feel like, as Christians, sometimes we do the same thing.

We use words like holy or awesome or grace like they’re not really a big deal.

But they are!

Holy means absolutely precious. Sacred. Consecrated to God. Blessed.

Awesome is to be awe struck. You can’t even comprehend what you’re looking at.

When we think of grace we think of things like elegance and poise.

But grace is so much more awesome than that.

Grace is something that can’t be purchased, something that can’t be earned.

God’s grace is taking something unclean and undeserving and polishing it and making it new.

We are brand new!

Do you understand what being made new means?

2 Corinthians 5:17: Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

How comforting is that!?

I don’t have to be who I used to be.

I am not what I was before.

I am brand new.

But then we ask ourselves, why do we need to be made new?

“I do good deeds. I gave a dollar to that homeless guy at the gas station. I tithe when I can. I try not to lie. I’ve never stolen anything except some office supplies from work.”

“My good outweighs my bad. God will let me into heaven. I’m a good person.”

We hear this stuff all the time.

Well, in my schooling, I’ve written a lot of papers.

In a lot of my papers, I come across this same notion of good deeds, essentially buying your way into heaven.

Every time I stop to think about it, I always come back to one simple question.

How much sin is allowed in heaven?

How much sin can come into heaven before its divinity comes into question?

The answer is zero.

None.

Heaven must be sinless.

It wouldn’t be heaven if sin was there.

You see, humans have this way of putting a human veil on everything.

We assume that our standard of ‘good’ should be acceptable in Heaven.

We are so quick to claim our dominion over everything.

How many times have you heard someone say something along the lines of, “I’m not a Christian but I’m a good person”?

Heaven is this sinless euphoric place. In the presence of God, the Creator of the Universe.

No amount of ‘good’ any human can do will ever gain them an entry voucher.

Entry to Heaven is only obtained through God’s gift of grace.

Why do we need grace?

We need grace because on our own, we lose.

We are naturally selfish, entitled, whiney little children.

We will always lose the battle against sin.

But, through Christ, the battle is already won.

So, no amount of good we do, no amount of good deeds is enough to earn that victory.

What we should do is show gratitude by doing good deeds.

We should do good deeds to give thanks.

We should do good deeds to show this world that there is something different about us.

That we are new creations.

So, again, how do we enter heaven?

We all sin.

We all fall short, even the best of us.

So, how do we solve the problem of our sin?

We need something to make us clean.

Something to make us new.

We need a savior.

We need a messiah.

We need a perfect sacrifice.

We can’t earn it.

We need that gift from God.

God gave us that gift through Jesus.

Prayer: