

**God's Gifts At Christmas
Part 1: Messy Gift Wrapping**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17

I don't understand myself at all for I really want to do what is right but I don't do it. Instead I do the very thing I hate. I know perfectly well that what I am doing is wrong but I can't help myself. I know I am rotten through and through but no matter which way I turn I can't make myself do right. I want to but I can't. When I want to do good, I don't. When I try not to do wrong, I do it anyway. Romans 7:15-19 (The Message)

Wrapping Paper is Not the Gift—Holiness is the Gift!

... we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Hebrews 10:10

And we ... are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18

Misunderstanding Messy Gift Wrapping

- Spiritual Apathy
- Spiritual Façade

"The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach." Matthew 23:2-3

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness." Matthew 23:27-28

Unwrapping the Beautiful Mess

1. Thank God that you're in PROCESS

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17

2. Trust God in your UNFINISHEDNESS

... being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6

3. Pursue God with FAITHFULNESS

"Set yourselves apart for a holy life. Live a holy life, because I am GOD, your God. Do what I tell you; live the way I tell you. I am the GOD who makes you holy."

Leviticus 20:7-8 (Msg)

... pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. 1 Timothy 6:11

What does *The Waters* believe and what does it value?

Find out at **www.waterschurch.com**

George Burns said, "Look to the future because it's where you'll spend the rest of your life." We're looking toward the future of The Waters and that future includes "The Deep End". We'll begin talking more about "The Deep End" soon. Keep an eye out in the program and/or on the website for more information.

Prayer Team Would you like to deepen your relationship with Christ? Start with prayer. We have 2 ways you can pray with The Waters. One is to show up at 9:30 on Sunday morning and join our prayer circle. You don't even have to pray outloud, just join with us as we pray for Kelly, his message and The Waters. The second way is to sign up on the registration card indicating you're willing to pray for people who ask for prayer.

MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK: Now online!! Just go to WatersChurch.com and click on [Verse of the Week](#) and choose [Series -Memory Verses](#).

Youth Group Now Meeting Every Sunday evening from 6:30 to 8 pm. Ben and Diane Moyer are hosting it at their house. No Need to RSVP — Just show up! 221 Grooms Road in Cibolo. For youth from 5th grade up! If you want more information, email Kelly@waterschurch.com

The kids will be rehearsing each week between now and Christmas to perform at our Christmas service, so be sure to be here each week and don't forget to save the date:
§unday, December 21st and invite your family and friends!

Contact Pastor Kelly: kelly@waterschurch.com or 210 913 4602

Our mailing address is The Waters Church, PO Box 1035, Cibolo, TX 78108
"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost." Isaiah 55:1