

The Gift of God



By

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For the wages of sin is death: but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, Romans 6:23

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

The traditional mind set for this time of the year is that this is the season for gift giving. Children make a list of the toys and games that they would like to find under the tree on Christmas morning. Spouses usually drop enough hints so that their better halves are sure to comply. More recently there has been a trend toward giving more to the less fortunate, which certainly enhances the spirit of Christmas. And to the traditionalist as well as the new trenders, I say right on! Well and good! Way to go! My hat is off to you! So far so good! Certainly it is impossible to experience this time of the year without thinking of giving gifts. I will go so far as to say we can't help but to think that way its in our nature. We have been

programmed to think this way. It is even a part of our DNA. But to fully appreciate this season of giving we must consider the very first gift and the significance of that Gift.

To understand the significance of the gift, we must first appreciate the circumstance under which it was given.

Observe for a moment: Mankind was dying and was doomed to hell. The nature of man was such that he was not good enough on his own to avoid his fate. Man was born in sin and shaped in iniquity. There were none among us who were righteous not one. For we all had sinned and come short of the glory. It is safe to say that man born of woman would have only a few days and those days would be filled with trouble. Are you getting the picture? We were in a world of hurt and virtually no way out. The wages of sin is death! Oh wretched man that we are who could deliver us from this death?

It was under these disastrous conditions that mankind found itself in the need for Divine Intervention. There is a reality TV series on cable

called **Intervention** that shows teenagers as well as men and women who have fallen victim to drugs and alcohol. The show reveals their struggles and the hell that they are going through as well as the hurt and pain of the loved one that they are having an impact on. The objective is to bring in outside help, usually experts in intervention to bring them back from the deep, dark seas of hopeless despair that they have fallen in. In some cases they are successful in others they are not. Well multiply that reality show to a global scale and that is where mankind as a whole was when God performed an intervention. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten (monogenēs) Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16 “*

Consider this: Mankind was the crown of God’s creation. He made man in His image and in His likeness. It was God’s original design that man should live forever. But when man sinned, death became a part of the human equation. And even though man has continued in his sin, God still loved

us. We remain in His eyes just a little lower than the angels and His love for us has never wavered. He loved us so much until he was willing to give us a perfect gift that would restore us back to His original design, which was to live forever. That perfect gift was Jesus Christ His only begotten. The Term begotten was translated from the Greek word monogenēs which was the Greeks way of distinguishing the only Divine descendant. From those of us who by adoption are now the children of God.

Remember this: What God did for man was a **gift!** We did not mature and grow out of our sin. We did not do enough good things to cancel the curse of sin. We have earned nothing. It was God's unmerited favor that poured out his abundant love towards us. And he continues to pour it out day by day. **God's Gift**, Jesus Christ is truly the gift that keeps on giving. Even now when I'm troubled on every side, **God's Gift** won't let me be in distressed. Even now when I'm perplexed, **God's Gift**, won't let me be in despair. Thou I may be persecuted, **God's Gift**, keeps me

from being forsaken, when I'm cast down, **God's Gift** won't let me be destroyed. **God's Gift** is my friend, my provider, my light, and my salvation. That's **God's Gift!** He's my peace, my food, my water, my shelter.

Think about this: Do you have **God's Gift**. Well, before you can have **God's Gift** you must first know **God's Gift**.

The story is recorded of Jesus' meeting with the Samaritan woman at the well. And Jesus incredulously asked the woman for a drink of water. The record is that she said "How is it that thou, being a Jew, asketh drink of me which am a woman of Samaria? For the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

Jesus answered and said unto her, *"If thou knewest the **Gift of God** and who it is that saith to thee Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him and he would have given thee living water."*

This gift, **The Gift of God**, will never become outdated. It won't lose its value. It won't go out of style. You can't outgrow it. It will never wear out.

This gift, **The Gift of God**, comes with a life time warranty. It has the power of perennial freshness which renews day by day. This gift, **The Gift of God**, **will** never forsake you and will keep you in perfect peace.

Listen: It was the **Gift of God** that was wounded for our transgressions. It was the **Gift of God** that was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was on the **Gift of God**, and it is with His stripes that we are healed!