

## The Neglected Gift

How would you feel if you made a great sacrifice and spent a large sum of money for a gift for someone you loved greatly, and offered that gift, only to have it refused or neglected? If you are like the rest of us, you would be hurt deeply, but also offended. If you were to ask yourself the question, "Who could be so uncaring that they would be like that?" you may be surprised to find the answer to that question is YOU. How so? That's a good question, so I'll explain briefly.

Many people, if not most, see Christmas as a time to give and receive gifts, as well as to get together with family and friends, and that is fine. Then we have businesses that see Christmas as a time for office parties and, for retail stores, it's a time to make money, lots of money. But that is NOT what Christmas is about! Christmas is about a gift. Not just any gift, but **THE** gift of God to His creation - all of humanity. The gift that God gave was His Son, Jesus Christ, who, leaving the glory of Heaven, took to Himself the body of man so that He could shed His innocent blood and die on the Cross of Calvary as the full and final payment for our sin debt. Mary, the earthly mother of Jesus, did not become pregnant with Jesus; she was conceived of by the Holy Spirit, so it was impossible for the sin nature to be passed on to the Christ child. "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother, Mary was espoused to Joseph, **before they came together** {emphasis added}, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost." {Matthew 1:18} Because we are sinners by nature, having received that sin nature from Adam, as well as the death penalty, we could not atone for our sins, so Jesus Christ came to do that! {"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." {Romans 5:12, 19} For those who may be wondering why He would do that for us, it is because of His great love for us. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." {Romans 5:8} "**For God so loved the world** {emphasis added}, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." {John 3:16} All of us are eternal souls, and when our mortal body dies, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:" {Hebrews 9:27}, our eternal soul will spend eternity in one of two places; the place the Bible calls hell (also referred to as the lake of fire) or in Heaven with our Saviour and God the Father. For those who have trusted Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, the Bible says, "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." {2 Corinthians 5:8} On the other hand, for those who have not repented and trusted Him as personal Saviour we read, "And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." {Revelation 20:13-15} But my friend, as the Bible says, God is ". . .", not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." {2 Peter 3:9b}

**The Neglected Gift** is the gift of eternal life that God so freely offers to all who will repent and, by faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, receive Him as personal Saviour. "For the wages of sin is death; **but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**" {Emphasis added} {Romans 6:23} God has promised that, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." {Romans 10:13} My friend, that "whosoever" can be **YOU**; it was for **YOUR** sin debt that Jesus bled and died on the Cross; it was for **YOU** that He bodily rose again after three days in the grave; Jesus is alive now and forever more! {John, chapter 20}

Christmas is the time when Jesus Christ, the Messiah, entered this world in the form of a babe, having been born of a virgin, so that He could die on the Cross of Calvary for you and me. Such love could only come from the heart of God, because He loves us so much. Unfortunately, so many people will neglect the gift that He so freely offers. For many, the gift will be neglected until the day when it is too late, eternally too late. God has a gift for you, but you will not find it under a Christmas tree; you will find it on your knees as you confess to God that you are a sinner for whom Christ bled and died and, by faith alone, you received Him as your personal Saviour. **The Neglected Gift**; my friend, neglect it no longer! For the sake of your eternal soul, repent and

receive Jesus as Saviour today!!! Make this Christmas the best Christmas of your life, because you have received the greatest gift ever, the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

After you trust Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, it is so important that you read God's Word daily, pray, and attend a good fundamental, Bible believing and Bible preaching church.

~Richard A. Ciarrocca