

The Gift of Christmas

A Gift for All Seasons

"The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23

The Gift of Christmas Is A Necessary Gift

Every year we try to be creative, yet practical, with the gifts we buy for family and friends. It gives me pleasure to know that I have somehow given a gift that, though not necessarily expensive, will be put to good use.

Romans 5:12 says, *"Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."* As Adam was banished from the garden so we too have been spiritually banished from God's presence. Yes, *"For the wages of sin is death"* but I am thankful that Romans 6:23 does not end there but goes on to declare *"...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

The gift of Christ to the world that first Christmas was a necessity and His eventual death on the cross for the payment of our sins pleased the Father. (Isaiah 53:10-11)

The Gift of Christmas Is Free but Costly

Have you ever been accosted in the malls by people offering freebies? Salespersons try to entice us with "free gifts" but wind up asking us for "minimal" charges or requirements once we take the bait. It is not really a gift nor was it free for the taking.

In contrast, the gift of salvation has no hidden charges. Christ was born to later on suffer and die so that *"whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"*. (John 3:16)

Ephesians 2:8 clearly describes that it is by grace that we are *"saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any*

man should boast." A great and priceless exchange happened on the cross - His innocent blood for the sins of the world.

The Gift of Christmas Is For Anyone Who Accepts Christ

God has done His part; He *"so loved the world that He gave"*. Man needs to do His part by the taking of the gift of salvation God so freely gave. All we need to do is to accept His Word that promise *"whosoever believeth in him (Christ) shall receive remission of sins,"* and *"whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"*. (Acts 10:43, Romans 10:13)

Do you know of anyone who does not like to receive a gift? I LIKE GIFTS!!! It is exciting for me to know that "WHOSOEVER" includes you and me!!!

The Gift of Christmas Is Worthy of Worship and Thanksgiving

When the Wise Men visited the young Christ, they went into His house, saw Him ... *"fell down, and worshipped him"* after which they proceeded to open their treasures and *"presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh"*. (Matthew 2:11)

Gold fit for Royalty, pricey frankincense and myrrh. Lord, I have none of these but may I as my personal thanksgiving give you my gift of "gold," always regarding you as King of my heart. May I give the gift of a life that is pure and undefiled in this world (James 1:27). Finally may I learn to *"die daily"* as Paul did preferring your will and not mine. (1 Corinthians 15:31) It is the best gift I can give in return for what God has given to me - eternal life in Heaven!

Simply put, **the GIFT of CHRISTMAS is CHRIST!** Do you want to have a blessed Christmas? Receive CHRIST, the gift of Christmas, today and offer to Him your life in return. *"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift"*! (2 Corinthians 9:15)

*Written by: Dan and Ina Bunyi for Christmas 2015
May we all tell others about the great gift of Christmas – Jesus Christ the Saviour of Mankind!*