

THE GREATEST GIFT

By: Dr. Hal Webb, Evangelist

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" James 1:17.

Christmas is a busy time of gifts and giving, to remember loved ones, and to show our love by our gifts. Ever since the wise men brought gifts to Jesus at His birth, mankind has celebrated Christmas with gifts. Some are very costly and others valuable for they were made by little hands of our children. I have often heard people say it is not the gift but the thought that matters. Much of today's Christmas celebration has been lost in commercialism. We are told to use Happy Holidays and not Merry Christmas. Millions of dollars are spent as the reason for the season is forgotten. Meanwhile they miss receiving the greatest gift ever given. God's gift tops them all, and I hope you have received the best. If not, please read carefully this message. I will clearly show you who is God's greatest gift. I want us to consider six things about it. **(1). Who Is This Gift:** *"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.* 2,000 years ago angels sang, shepherds journeyed to see, and wise men came to worship. When Mary gave birth, it was a little babe which she laid in a manger, for there was no room for them in the Inn. Here begins the glorious news. Jesus was not just a new born baby, but the Son of God. How wonderful! God sent His Son to meet the needs of every man on earth, even you and me. **(2). Why This Gift:** *"For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" II Cor. 5:21.*

Most babies are born to live, but Jesus, the Son of God, was born to die. There are many verses in the Bible which show our condition without Christ. Every human on earth is born under the curse of sin. *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" Rom. 3:23.* The first part of Rom. 6:23 warns, *"The wages of sin is death."* God in His great love sent His Son as a substitute or atonement for mankind's sin. Old Testament faith was conditioned on the sacrifice of an animal which was slaughtered and the blood shed. All of these spoke of a day when God would carry out a better plan. He would give his own Son, to die on the cross for our sins. *"Without shedding of blood is no remission" Heb. 9:22.* Lambs would no longer need to be sacrificed, for the Lamb of God came to take our place. No amount of works or religious pursuits could ever forgive sin. This brings us to the third point of this great God given gift. **(3). The Result Of This Gift:** *"The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" Rom. 6:23.* The verse begins with a warning, but ends with a great promise. The creator of the universe holds out this great gift to all who will receive His son. Our temporal life is but the beginning, and eternal life is offered to all as a result of Jesus death. We do not have to fear death, judgment, separation and an eternity in Hell. Trust in Jesus Christ removes all that, and offers a home in Heaven. *"Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" John 14:1-3.* Believers are promised a home in Heaven for all eternity. What a wonderful result is ours when we claim Christ as our Saviour. I want you to consider next **(4). How The Gift Was Given:** God so loved us that He gave His Son

in our place, to pay for our sin. Such great love by God goes beyond words. His most precious possession He gave, with great longing of His eternal heart. His own Son would be the final sacrificial lamb ever needing to be offered for sin. Pause a moment and think of the horrors of the cross, not only the abuses but separation from His own Father. And now He pleads for man not to turn his back on such sacrifice. Ezekiel cried out in the Old Testament, "*Why will ye die*" and testified "*For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves and live*" Ezekiel 18: 31 & 32. Have you turned to the loving Father who reaches out to receive you? He loved you beyond human comprehension and paid the price for your eternal redemption. We cannot begin to imagine the love that caused God to offer such a gift. Just be sure you have received it. **(5). When The Gift Is Given:** If you have not done so there is no reason for delay. "*Behold now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of salvation*" II Cor. 6:2. To delay making a decision for Christ can lead to disaster. You must accept it while the Holy Spirit is tugging at your heart. Putting it off makes your heart harder, and you are less apt to ever be saved. Excuses are not the answer. Offer a young boy a new football and will he say 'I'm not good enough'? Or if you present a girl with a beautiful new doll will she say, "let me work for it"? Offer a tramp a bowl of warm soup and he will not say, "wait till later". God warns He will not always strive with man. The offer is now, but no guarantee for later. You need to heed, and accept what God's Son purchased at Calvary. **(6). To Whom Is The Gift Given:** John 1:12 promises "*But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name*" John 1:12. And in Romans it says "*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*" Rom. 10:13. How about John 3:16, "*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." How about this promise, "*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him*" John 3:36. Why dear reader would you wait any longer to accept the greatest gift ever given to mankind. Right now bow your head and believe, receive, call on Jesus, and trust Him He holds the gift in His hand to give you the moment you ask. Oh please don't wait any longer, but receive this gift of all gifts for your very own.

Jesus Stands At Your Heart's Door With

His Blood- to cleanse you from sin.
 His Love- to heal your aching heart.
 His Pardon- to make you pure before God.
 His Grace- to help you stand true.
 His Life- to enjoy eternally.

WHAT A GIFT!

PS..... If you are already a born again Christian, then rejoice in this special time of the year. Don't allow the true meaning of the birth of the Christ child to be eclipsed with lights and ribbons. Take time to be in church, for its services' and at home with the family. Raise your voices in song and testimony. Share the meaning of Christmas, and get a friend to accept the gift of all gifts. In your devotions stop and ponder the broken heart of the Father, as sin separated Him from His Son. Let's be very thankful we are now in the family of the King of Kings. We can sing a song that not even the angels can sing. We have been redeemed, redeemed, redeemed, by the blood of the Lamb. redeemed, redeemed, His child and forever I am. **Praise God!**

My wife Sue and I wish you a blessed Christmas, and a Christ honoring new year!