

Giving of Gifts

Christmas 2019

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Introduction

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- Gift giving is normal this time of year.
- In a certain way that is completely appropriate.
- It is the time of year we remember that God gave us his Son.

Giving of Gifts Introduction

- The Christmas Story Luke 1 & 2
- God Gave His Son John 3:16-17
- We Are Saved as a Gift Ephesians 2:8-9
- Eternal Life Is a Gift Romans 6:22-23
- In Return, Love the Lord Psalm 116

Giving of Gifts Introduction

- The **Christmas Story** in **Luke 1 & 2** is fun to read, but we won't talk about these chapters in detail now.
- Next week, we finish **Gospel of Mark** with **Mark 16**.
- After that, we will begin a chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse study of **Luke**.
- So we will go through **Luke 1 & 2** again at that time.

The Christmas Story

Luke 1 & 2

The Christmas Story Luke 1 & 2

- So that's the story of the arrival of Jesus Christ on earth.
- In Luke, it comes to us intertwined with Christ's relative John.
- God the Son came in helplessness and humility as a child, born into a not-so-remarkable family, just like billions of us.

The Christmas Story Luke 1 & 2

- He grew up into an adult day-by-day and year-by-year.
- In this way God almighty, the eternal and all powerful, gives himself and makes himself accessible to us all.

God Gave His Son John 3:16-17

God Gave His Son John 3:16-17

- John 3:16-17 (ESV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

God Gave His Son John 3:16-17

- The story of Jesus is one of God taking the initiative.
- God gives.
- God sends.
- All out of love for us.
- We get the benefits.

We Are Saved as a Gift Ephesians 2:8-9

We Are Saved as a Gift Ephesians 2:8-9

- Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

We Are Saved as a Gift Ephesians 2:8-9

- When Christ died on the cross, he paid the price for the sins of the world.
- We are saved from our sins because we receive the gift that God offers.
- We may now receive forgiveness, pardon and a new nature, which is capable of fellowship with God.
- As in **John 3:16**, the Bible sometimes call this “eternal life.”

Eternal Life Is a Gift Romans 6:22-23

Eternal Life Is a Gift Romans 6:22-23

- Romans 6:22-23 (ESV)

²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Eternal Life Is a Gift Romans 6:22-23

- **Eternal life** is life that lasts forever, but it is even more.
- It is a whole new kind of existence, different from this life.
- We will, for all eternity, be not only forgiven but completely purified of all our sin and imperfections.
- It will be never-ending, sin-free, sickness-and-death-free fellowship with God and a whole family of other believers.

In Return, Love the Lord Psalm 116

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- In other words, receive the gift of salvation, the gift of eternal life.
- Enter into the relationship with God that he wants to have with you and live for him forever.

Conclusion A Living Sacrifice

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- **Romans 12:1-2** (ESV)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, [or *brothers and sisters*, since the Greek implies both] by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship [or *rational service*].

² Do not be conformed to this world [or *age*], but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect [Or *what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God*].

Giving of Gifts

A Closing Prayer

Giving of Gifts A Closing Prayer

- Heavenly Father,
- You have given us more than we could ever repay.
- You have put us eternally in your debt by sending your Son Jesus to live a real human life and to die a very human death for our sins.
- We thank you for his humility, and the fact that he would be born as any normal human child and grow up through his teen years into adulthood like any other human being.
- And we thank you for your salvation.

Giving of Gifts A Closing Prayer

- As the psalmist asks, what can we give you for all these benefits that you have given us?
- We will receive the gift, receive your salvation and receive the free gift of eternal life.
- Help us to live that life that we live completely for you, beginning now but lasting forever.
- In Christ,
- Amen.