

Exchanging Gifts

Introduction: When you think of Christmas you often think of exchanging gifts with family members or with friends. I wonder if you ever thought about the "GIFT EXCHANGE" which God offers to all sinners of the world? What God offers to us is only possible because of what He did for us some 2000 years ago.

I. The Ultimate Gift of a Savior

Luke 2:1-11

This was the *GREATEST GIFT* that was ever given. It was God's Gift of a Savior, and He was given to all the world so that all the world could be saved.

John 3:16-17

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.

¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

The Gift of a Savior is available to every person that is here today.

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

² And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

With this Gift comes many other priceless gifts. I want to share with you some of the exchanges that come through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. A life of ruin for a life with purpose.

Romans 3:10-18

¹⁰ As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

¹¹ There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

¹² *They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

¹³ *Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:*

¹⁴ *Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:*

¹⁵ *Their feet are swift to shed blood:*

¹⁶ *Destruction and misery are in their ways:*

¹⁷ *And the way of peace have they not known:*

¹⁸ *There is no fear of God before their eyes.*

This is a description of what we were without Jesus Christ, and this is a description of what you are now if you do not know Jesus Christ. We were slaves to sin.

Romans 6:17-20

¹⁷ *But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*

¹⁸ *Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*

¹⁹ *I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.*

²⁰ *For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.*

Ephesians 2:1-7

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

² *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

³ *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

⁶ And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

⁷ That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

We are now the trophies of His grace. Now we have a purpose and that is to glorify our Savior.

2. A life of unrighteousness for His righteousness

When we came to Jesus Christ our God took away all of our unrighteousness and He gave to us His righteousness.

Micah 7:18-19

¹⁸ Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.

¹⁹ He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and **thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.**

Hebrews 8:12

¹² For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and **their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.**

But it was not enough that our sins were taken away. He then clothed us in His righteousness.

Romans 3:22-25

²² Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ **unto all and upon all them that believe:** for there is no difference:

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

²⁴ Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

²⁵ *Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;*

We are given the righteousness of God as our garment. This is justification and it is permanent.

Hebrews 10:10-14

¹⁰ *By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

¹¹ *And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:*

¹² *But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;*

¹³ *From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.*

¹⁴ *For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

Once we are saved, we are forever clothed in the righteousness of God.

3. A life of anxiety and fear for His peace.

Isaiah describes our lack of peace in the past.

Isaiah 48:22

²² *There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked.*

Isaiah 59:8

⁸ *The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.*

Now that we have received the Greatest Gift of all we can know peace.

Philippians 4:6-8

⁶ *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

⁷ *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Isaiah 26:3-4

³ Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

⁴ Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:

4. A life of weariness for rest

Before salvation there was no rest for our souls. We grew weary as we sometimes tried to live a life that we thought might somehow please God. But we always failed, and we never knew true rest. But now it is different.

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Hebrews 4:9-10

⁹ There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

¹⁰ For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

2 Thessalonians 1:7

⁷ And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

Jeremiah 6:16

¹⁶ Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

5. A life of emptiness for abundant life.

Before we were saved, we were constantly looking for fulfillment.

Jeremiah 2:13

¹³ For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

Now that we are saved, we have found life and satisfaction.

John 10:9-10

⁹ I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

¹⁰ The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Before we were saved, we were never satisfied but when we came to Jesus Christ, we learned what contentment was really about.

John 4:13-14

¹³ Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

¹⁴ But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

6. A life of barrenness for fruitfulness

It was impossible for us to bear any acceptable spiritual fruit before salvation. We could produce no righteousness.

Romans 6:20

²⁰ For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

But now we are connected to the Vine.

John 15:1-5

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

² *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, **that it may bring forth more fruit.***

³ *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

⁴ *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

⁵ *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, **the same bringeth forth much fruit:** for without me ye can do nothing.*

Conclusion:

Jesus Christ is the Gift that truly does keep on giving.