

The Gift of God

Romans 6:23

This year Americans will give an average of 24 Christmas gifts per person, with a total value of \$65 billion.¹ That's a lot of gifts for a lot of people involving a lot of money.

God also has a gift for all people and it will not cost them any money.

Jesus met a Samaritan woman who came to a well to draw water. He asked her for a drink. She was surprised Jesus, being a Jew, would speak to her. Jesus said to her, *"If thou knewest the GIFT OF GOD, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him..."*

What is the GIFT OF GOD? The Bible says, *"The wages of sin is death; but the GIFT of God is ETERNAL LIFE through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Rom. 6:23).

I. It is an UNSPEAKABLE gift.

- ➡ 1 Corinthians 9:15— *"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."* There are no words to adequately describe it.
- ➡ All the gifts given throughout the world this Christmas *combined* will never compare with the one single gift given by Jesus Christ to anyone who will receive it.
 - A. Unspeakable value (Valuable because of the Giver).
 - ➡ Jesus said, *"What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the world world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"* (Mk. 8:36-37).
 - B. Unspeakable cost—The precious BLOOD of Christ (1 Pet. 1:18-19).
 - C. Unspeakable love—It is impossible to describe the love of God. Why God would sacrifice His Son for people who hate Him... curse Him... and are His enemies? When was the last time you gave an expensive gift to one of worst enemies?

II. It is an UNPARALLELED gift.

¹ <http://theweek.com/article/index/273936>

- The Perfect gift. James 1:17—*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights.*
- A. To have the gift of eternal life is to have everything worth having in this life and the life to come!
- A person may have everything there is to have in this world, but when he dies, he'll leave it all behind. But the gift of God is a gift he will have throughout all eternity.
- B. **If I could give you a gift that...**
- Would never **break** or **wear out**...
 - Required no **batteries** or recharging...
 - You would never **out grow** it...
 - You could never **lose** it or have it **stolen** from you...
 - It would **hold your interest** the rest of your life and you would **enjoy it more and more** as you get older.
- Wouldn't you want it? It is yours when you accept the GIFT OF GOD!

III. It is an **UNLIMITED** gift.

- A. It is a gift available to anyone just for the taking!
- B. If you were to give a gift that would be suitable for the whole world, what would you give?
1. You could give them a **book**, but many people cannot read.
 2. You could give them **food**, but different cultures eat different things.
 3. You could give them **clothing**, but different climates require different clothes.
 4. The only logical thing you could give that would suit everyone in the world is the Gospel with its gift of eternal life. **When you have Jesus, you have everything you need.**

What FOOD is to the starving; what WATER is to the thirsting; what FREEDOM is to the captive; what RICHES are to the poor; what HEALING is to the sick; what REST is to the weary; what

PARDON is to the prisoner... That, and much more, is God's gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ to all who have received Him!

IV. It is an UNMERITED gift. (Ephesians 2:8-9).

- A. A gift is something offered with no strings attached.
- B. If it is earned or worked for it becomes wages or reward.
- C. Eternal life is wholly by grace. There is only one way for you to have it—It must be a gift received.

V. It is an UNCLAIMED gift (John 1:11-12).

- A. How sad the giver must feel to think that His gift is unwanted. How sad to imagine after God's great sacrifice and expense, His gift is unclaimed and unopened.
- B. The *Microsoft Encarta '96 Encyclopedia* defines a "gift"— "Gift: Legally a gift is the voluntary transfer or conveyance of property made without consideration or compensation. A gift must fulfill the following conditions in order to be legally binding:
 - 1. The donor must be deemed competent, or mentally sound, to make a contract, and the donee must have legal existence to take hold of the gift;
 - 2. The donor must act voluntarily;
 - 3. The transfer must be complete, with nothing left undone;
 - 4. The subject matter of the gift must be delivered by the donor to the donee during their lifetimes;
 - 5. The transfer must take immediate and permanent effect.
 - 6. The donee must accept the gift.

SUMMATION: Have you received God's Gift of eternal life? It's all gift wrapped in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.