

God's Unspeakable Gift

2 Cor. 9:15—

His unspeakable gift."

Christmas a time of giving gifts. Americans will give an average of 24 Christmas gifts per person, worth over \$150 billion.¹ Christmas=\$\$\$

What started all this gift giving during the Christmas season? Well, it all started with God. The first Christmas gift came from heaven. Isaiah 9:6

—“F , ...” Luke 2:11—“F

D , C

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God’s gift is —Inexpressible in value. There are no words that can describe it’s unfathomable worth.

God’s gift is beautifully “wrapped” in the person of His only begotten Son (Rom. 6:23— “... F E E A FE E

C .”).

The most important gift is not one under a Christmas tree.

It is the gift of Christ that God hung upon Calvary’s tree.

I. It is a **PRECIOUS** gift. How do you determine the value of a gift?

A. By the **PROVIDER** of the gift—God.

1. If you were to receive a gift from the President, some celebrity, or famous athlete, you would value it because of who gave it to you. The gift of eternal life comes from God.
2. Everything you and I have we got one of three ways: (1) We purchased it with money we earned; (2) We received it as a gift. (3) We stole it. The sport coat I’m wearing, I purchased with money that I **earned**... The neck-tie I’m wearing and the pen in my pocket I received as a birthday **gift** from my good friend, Ken Blue (now in heaven)... The shoes I have on were given to me by the Open Door Baptist Church (Lynnwood, WA) I don’t have anything on me that I stole (and if I did, I wouldn’t tell you about it!)

B. By the **PRACTICALITY** of the gift—Eternal life (Rom. 6:23).

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

1. It is a gift available to anyone just for the taking! If you were to give a gift that would be suitable for everyone in the whole world, what would you give?
 - You could give a **book**, but some people cannot read.
 - You could give **food**, but different cultures eat different things.
 - You could give **clothing**, but different climates require different clothes.
2. The only logical item you could give that would suit everyone in the world is the 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 prisoner... What **RICHES** are to the poor... What **HEALING** is to the sick... What **REST** is to the weary... That, and much more, is God's gift of eternal life!

- C. By its **PRICE** that was paid to purchase the gift—the precious **BLOOD** of Christ (1 Pet. 1:18-19).

A large department store got the idea to market a “Baby Jesus” doll. It was advertised as being unbreakable, washable and cuddly. It was packaged in straw with a crib and plastic surroundings, and appropriate biblical texts added here and there to make the scene complete.

But, it did not sell. The manager carried out a last ditch promotion to sell of these dolls. He hung a sign at his store that read: **JESUS CHRIST - MARKED DOWN 50% - GET HIM WHILE YOU CAN!**

Isn't it strange that the greatest person who ever lived should be packaged and offered at clearance prices.

The gift of eternal life can't be purchased. None of us could afford it even at 99% off. This gift is **FREE** to anyone who will receive it. It's already been paid for by the shed blood of Jesus.

II. It is a **PERSONAL** gift.

- A. Jesus died for you personally.

- B. Jesus wants to be YOUR personal Savior.
- C. You must PERSONALLY receive Him.

How do you receive this gift? *E E* ² says:

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 giver must be deemed competent to make a contract, and the recipient must have legal existence to take possession of the gift.
2. The giver 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 giver to the recipient during their lifetimes. After death—Too late.
5. The transfer must take immediate and permanent effect.
6. The recipient must **accept** the gift. (John 1:12)

III. It is a **PERFECT** gift.

- A. God never gives a gift you have to stand in line to return. God's gift is always the right size... the right color... and is exactly what we need.
 - ➡ All the gifts given throughout the world will never compare with the one gift given by Jesus Christ.
- B. 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.

IV. It is a **PERMANENT** gift. “ ;

(John 10:28).

- A. It never goes out of style.
- B. You'll never grow out of it.
- C. It never wears out. It never needs batteries or recharging.

² The *Microsoft Encarta '96 Encyclopedia*

- D. It is unbreakable!
- E. It cannot be taken away from you.
- F. It holds your interest beyond the day you receive it. In fact, it gets better with time.

SUMMATION: A father took his son to the pet store to pick out a puppy for his birthday gift. After seeing several puppies and picked one whose tail was wagging briskly. His father asked, "Son, why you pick that puppy?"nm □ 1 0