

HONOR THE GIFT

John 3:16-17 KJV

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

Have you ever tried to calculate how much it would cost to give the gifts named in the classic **Christmas** song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

The grand total came to about \$15,000.

the real message of Christmas is not the gifts that we give to each other. Rather, it is a reminder of the gift that God has given to each of us.

It is the only gift that truly keeps on giving, so I want to point out several things about it.

First, it is surprising. When Christmas rolls around, you often try to figure out if certain people have bought that gift you really wanted.

Maybe you already know what they bought, because they didn't hide it very well. Or maybe you uncovered it by accident-or maybe not.

For instance I bought my wife's gift weeks ago, and make a long story short SHE DISCOVERED IT LOL

But when the day comes and you open the present, you have to pretend you're surprised. Yet all along, you knew what it was.

God's gift to us, however, was a complete surprise.

Second, God's gift came to us in the humblest of wrappings.

Luke 2:4-7 NKJV

“Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

What would you think if you saw a gift under your Christmas tree that was wrapped in newspaper and tied up with string? At first, you would probably assume that a dude wrapped it.

But think about God's gift to us. Jesus was not born in a palace of gold; He was born in a stable. He was clothed with rags. He was laid in a feeding trough.

Yet these things do not, in any way, diminish the story of **Christ's birth**. *If anything, they help us realize the great sacrifice God made for us.*

God's gift to humanity, the ultimate gift of eternal life through His Son, Jesus Christ, came in the simplest and humblest of wrappings.

The significance of a gift is not predicated on what its wrapped in, its about how your handle or HONOR the gift once it is unwrapped or revealed.

This reminds me of my dad, who is a hilarious gift wrapper, he will make the gift unwrapping experience quite enjoyable because he will wrap a significant gift in like 4 other boxes.

It will start with a huge box then you open one and boom there's another box, then boom there's another box to unwrap then after about 5 boxes you get to the real gift.

But the revelation is I don't care about how or what or how many times I have to open one box as long as I get to the REAL GIFT.

Third, we don't deserve this gift.

At Christmas, we give gifts to those whom we care about, who have been kind to us over the past year, or who have given us a gift first.

We don't give gifts to the person who has been slandering our name or to the angry neighbor who never has a kind word to say.

Yet God gave us His gift when we were filthy, stinking sinners. He didn't give this gift to us because we deserved it. In fact, it was just the opposite.

(Romans 5:8 NKJV).

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"

Fourth, the gift tells us something about the giver.

When you want to give someone a gift, you start thinking about it ahead of time. Hopefully, you try to find what that person wants or needs.

When God decided to give us the gift of eternal life, it wasn't something that He just thought of on the fly.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 6:23 KJV

Long before there was a town called Bethlehem, a garden called Eden, and a planet called Earth, a decision was made in eternity that God would send forth His Son, born of a woman, made under the law, to redeem those that are under the law.

The Bible says that He was slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8).

Make no mistake about it: this gift that God has given to us was the most sacrificial thing He possibly could have offered.

So Christmas isn't about those gifts that you have your tree right now. All of those things will be gone one day. All that will matter is how we cherished and honored the gift, the precious gift of Jesus Christ our savior and our Lord.

He didn't come in the designer clothes, he wasn't dripped out in gucci , louie and fendi, but he is the savior of the world, HE WHO KNEW NO SIN BECAME SIN SO THAT WE COULD BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD.