

Christmas Promise

Isaiah 9:6; 1 John 5:11-12

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Introduction

A big part of Christmas celebration is giving and receiving gifts. And almost all gifts are wrapped with beautiful papers and bow. And you have to wait until Christmas day to open them. If you're a true Asian, you open it very carefully. So you can save the wrapping papers for next year. Am I right?

My wife has a different understanding of Christmas. She wants me to buy her a gift like every week of the year, not just on Christmas. Her birthday is on New Year's Day, and she said I cannot combine the two together. Let's hope our baby is not the same way since her birthday is only a few days before Christmas.

The idea of giving gifts came from the first Christmas when God gave His Son to the world. Instead of giving under a tree, He was given in a manger. Instead of wrapping in beautiful paper and bow, He was wrapped in swaddling cloth. Instead of the gift delivered and opened at home, He was delivered in an animal stable in the little town of Bethlehem. God's gift to us was a demonstration of His great love for us.

In the OT, Isaiah prophesized about the Promised Gift. He writes, "For unto us a Child will be born, unto us a Son will be given."

Lesson

Isaiah says that a son will be God's gift to mankind. And His promise was fulfilled 700 years later when John writes in a familiar verse. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

God loves us so much that He gave us the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ.

But why does God give us the Gift? Because we needed it. Just when the world was lost, dying, living in darkness and without hope, God gave us his Son to save us...to give us hope...to give us peace...to give meaning and purpose in life.

John 1:14 says that the Son became flesh and lived among us. The Son is Jesus. He became human like you and me. He came so He could relate to us...so he could know and feel our pains, our struggles, our hurts...and our fears. And at

the same time, He wants us to know Him and to have hope of eternal life. That life can only come through believing in the Son. The Bible puts it like this: “God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life” (1 John 5:11-12).

God gave us the greatest gift in His Son, Jesus Christ. He who has the Son has life. When you have the Son, you have it all.

Illustration:

There was a wealthy man who shared a passion for art with his young son. Together they traveled around the world, buying some of the finest art treasures and adding to their collection. Priceless works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Monet and many others graced the walls of the family estate. The widowed father looked on with satisfaction as his only child became an experienced art collector. But the day came when the nation was engulfed in war, and the young man left to serve his country. After only a few short weeks, his father received a telegram that his beloved son had been killed while helping another wounded soldier.

Some time passed, on Christmas morning a knock came at the door of the old man’s home. As he opened the door, he was greeted by a soldier with a large package in his hand. He introduced himself to the old man by saying, “I was a friend of your son. I was the one he was rescuing when he died. May I come in for a few moments? I have something to show you. I’m an artist, and I want to give you this gift.” As the old man unwrapped the package, the paper gave way to reveal a portrait of his son. Though the art critics would never consider the work a piece of genius, the painting did feature the young man’s face in striking detail, and seemed to capture his personality.

The following spring, the old man became ill and passed away. The art world was in anticipation! According to the will of the old man, all of the art works would be auctioned. The day soon arrived, and art collectors from around the world gathered to bid on some of the world’s most spectacular paintings.

The auction began with a painting that was not on any museum’s list. It was the painting of the man’s son. The auctioneer asked for an opening bid. But the room was silent. “Who will open the bidding with \$100?” he asked. Minutes passed with not a sound from those who came to buy. From the back of the room someone angrily called out, “Who cares about that painting? It’s just a picture of his son. Let’s forget it and go on to the important paintings.” There were other voices which echoed in agreement. But the auctioneer replied, “No,

we have to sell this one first. Now, who will take the son?” Finally, a the young soldier who was rescued by the son spoke up from the back. “That’s my painting. I’d like to have it. I will bid the \$100.” “I have a bid for \$100,” called the auctioneer. “Will anyone go higher?” After a long silence, the auctioneer said, “Going once. Going twice. Gone.” The gavel fell. Cheers filled the room and someone was heard to say, “Now we can get on with the good stuff!”

But the auctioneer looked at the audience and announced that the auction was over. Everyone was stunned and disbelief quieted the room. Someone spoke up and asked, “What do you mean it’s over? We didn’t come here for a picture of some old guy’s son. What about all of these paintings? There are millions of dollars worth of art here! We demand that you explain what’s going on!”

The auctioneer replied, “It’s very simple. According to the will of the father, whoever takes the son... gets it all.” (Source: Unknown)

Conclusion

That’s the Christmas promise. God promised through the prophets long ago that He’d give us the perfect gift of His Son...to be with us. And He kept His promise when Jesus, Immanuel, was born on Christmas day.

He who has the Son takes it all.

The gift is available to each of us today. God has offered His Son to us. You have to receive it, take the package, open it and accept it as your own. That gift is Jesus Christ. When you have the Son, you have everything.

Will you believe in Him?
Will you accept His gift?
Will you accept His Son?

If you have never accepted Him, do it today. He loves you. He came so that you can know Him and have a relationship with Him. He died for you, so you can be forgiven of all your sin, guilt and regrets. And He rose from the dead three days later and is alive today so that you too can live, and live life to the fullest.

Whoever takes the Son...gets it all! That’s the Christmas Promise. God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1 John 5:11-12).