

God's Gifts at Christmas

Isaiah 9:2-7

INTRODUCTION:

As we prepare ourselves for Christmas this week and next weekend with all the hustle and bustle of family planning, presents, food, etc. I want us to take a moment to think of why Christmas is Christmas. To move our minds and hearts beyond the immediate planning and the chaos of the holiday season to consider the meaning of Christmas.

I know many of us who grew up in church are expecting the Joseph and Mary story, which we will be reading together this Wednesday evening so please make plans to attend, but this morning I want us to consider Christmas from Heaven's perspective. Consider what St. Augustine said,

Augustine

He was created of a mother whom He created. He was carried by hands that He formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute."

Many of us will immediately say, "Christmas was when God gave His Son to us" and this is true. God did become human. The eternal God now put in limitation of the creature to live as the creature so that we might have a relationship again with the Creator. But specifically, I want us this morning to consider all of the gifts that God has given humanity in that first Christmas with the fact that God became like us. The life of Christ overflowing with gifts to humanity. They are gifts that keep on giving to those who are willing to receive.

Vance Havner

Christmas is based on an exchange of gifts, the gift of God to man - His unspeakable gift of His Son, and the gift of man to God - when we present our bodies a living sacrifice.

God gave us the gift of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and because of this wonderful gift we have been given many other gifts. So, this morning I want us to consider the gifts underneath the Christmas tree of God. What gifts would we find on Christmas morning wrapped under God's Christmas tree

with our names on it?

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
a light has dawned
on those living in the land of darkness.

You have enlarged the nation
and increased its joy.

The people have rejoiced before You
as they rejoice at harvest time
and as they rejoice when dividing spoils.

For You have shattered their oppressive yoke
and the rod on their shoulders,
the staff of their oppressor,
just as You did on the day of Midian.

For the trampling boot of battle
and the bloodied garments of war
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child will be born for us,
a son will be given to us,
and the government will be on His shoulders.

He will be named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

The dominion will be vast,
and its prosperity will never end.
He will reign on the throne of David
and over his kingdom,

to establish and sustain it
with justice and righteousness from now on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will accomplish this.

- **The Gift of God's Love**

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His One and Only Son that Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

- **The Gift of Second Chances**

Henry Ward Beecher

God pardons like a mother, who kisses the offense into everlasting forgiveness.

- **The Gift of Grace**

Ephesians 2:8-10

For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift— not from works, so that no one can boast. For we are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them.

John 15:13-15

No one has greater love than this, that someone would lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you slaves anymore, because a slave doesn't know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have heard from My Father.

- **The Gift of Prayer**

Mother Theresa

"Prayer enlarges the heart until it is capable of Containing God's gift of Himself."

Romans 8:26-27

In the same way the Spirit also joins to help in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with unspoken groanings. And He who searches the hearts knows the Spirit's mind-set, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

• The Gift of Fellowship

1 Corinthians 1:10

Now I urge you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, that there be no divisions among you, and that you be united with the same understanding and the same conviction.

Galatians 3:27-29

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ like a garment. There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise.

Psalms 133:1

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony!

• The Gift of Hope

J.R.R. Tolkien

"The world is indeed full of peril, and in it there are many dark places; but still there is much that is fair, and though in all lands love is now mingled with grief, it grows perhaps the greater."

• The Gift of New Creation

Revelation 21:1-5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea no longer existed. I also saw the Holy

City, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.

Then I heard a loud voice from the throne:

Look! God's dwelling is with humanity,
and He will live with them.

They will be His people,
and God Himself will be with them
and be their God.

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Death will no longer exist;
grief, crying, and pain will exist no longer,
because the previous things have passed away.

Then the One seated on the throne said, "Look! I am making everything new.

C.S. Lewis

"Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world."

CONCLUSION:

G.K. Chesterton

"Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home."

So, imagine the Grand Tree of Christmas in our Father's House wouldn't have millions of presents with our names on them. It would have One, the One present that contains all others present in Him because Jesus is none other than the Gift as the Son of God who became the Son of Man.