

What To Give for Christmas

(Matthew 2:11)

Sunday, December 1, 2019

The first Christmas was a time of giving, and so has been every Christmas since. When Jesus was a baby, the wise men brought him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, the best money could buy. The Shepherds did not bring material gifts, but they brought their faith in response to the Angels' report. Joseph and Mary gave their lives. They committed themselves to God's plan even though they did not fully understand it. God the Father gave the greatest of all gifts, His only begotten Son. He gave the gift that cannot be described with words and cannot be duplicated.

What shall we give this Christmas?
Let me give some suggestions.

I. Let Us Give Love!

The Pharisees asked Jesus this question to test Him: "Master, which is the greatest commandment in the law?" (**Matthew 22:36**)

Jesus answered, *"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the Prophets."*

Love The Lord!

- He comes before family (Matthew 10:34-38)
- He comes before things (Matthew 6:33)
- Love Others (1 John 4:20-21)

Sunday, December 8, 2019

II. Let Us Give Forgiveness!

In the model prayer, Jesus said to pray, *"forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."* (**Matthew 6:12**) To forgive means, "to bear away, to wipe off, to dismiss." When God forgives us, He considers the debt paid. He no longer holds it to our account, and reconciliation becomes possible.

Unforgiven sins or debts cause strife, bitterness, or jealousy. It is interesting to note that Jesus, knowing the hearts of people, felt constrained to explain this petition of the Lord's prayer. He said, ***"for if ye forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses"*** (Matthew 6:14-15).

Forgiveness is a characteristic of one who is a member of God's Kingdom. It requires great effort to be forgiving. It cost God His Son to forgive us, and we should be forgiving as well!

Sunday, December 15, 2019

III. Let Us Give A Good Example!

Simon Peter said, *"for even here unto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps"* (1 Peter 2:21).

Paul said to Timothy, *"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believer, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity"* (1 Timothy 4:12).

The word example means, *"writing under."* Children trace the writing of the writing master. Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, left His imprints in the steps He took while on earth. We are to walk in His steps. We are to be Christ-like examples. Let us be godly examples, especially to children during Christmas.

Sunday, December 22, 2019

IV. Let Us Give The Gospel To Hungry Souls!

What is the gospel? The gospel is the good news about Jesus Christ. It includes His coming, His death, and His resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:1-5). We are to share the gospel with others. There is indeed a famine in America and across the world. Men, women, boys and girls are hungry to hear the gospel of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

The Angel of the Lord announced the birth of Christ to the shepherds with these words, *"fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord"* (Luke 2:10-11).

Let us give the gospel to the lost of our day. Let us proclaim Christ to all!

Sunday, December 29, 2019

V. Let Us Give Glory To God!

The multitude of heavenly hosts on the first Christmas day praised God, saying, *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men”* (**Luke 2:14**). There are four good reasons why we should give glory to God:

- It Magnifies the right person! John the Baptist had it right when he said, *“He must increase, but I must decrease”* (John 3:30).
- It acknowledges our stewardship! *“Bless the Lord, O my Soul: and all that is within me, bless His Holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits”* (Psalm 103:1-2). Since God is the giver of every good and perfect gift, let us give glory to Him.
- It expresses humility and gratitude! The proud do not give glory to God. Base people do not express gratitude. God is praised by the humble and grateful. Glory to God warms the Christian’s heart. Whose heart is not warmed by the singing of hymns of gratitude and praise?
- It produces power! People are turned to our Lord when we give Glory to Him and praise His name.

In all our giving this Christmas, let us give the gift that will last for all eternity. God gave such a gift to us when Christ came.