

“STEWARDING GOD’S MAJESTIC GIFT”

Sunday, December 25, 2016

Introduction: Consider the *majesty* of this heavenly Gift (Luke 2:8-20).

Response: We see the response of the humble. They *pursued* Christ; they *praised* Christ; and then they *proclaimed* Christ.

MAKE A COMMITMENT: WILL YOU COMMIT TO DOING WHATEVER GOD WILL SAY TO YOU IN THIS MESSAGE?

† **Stewarding God’s Majestic Gift**

Q: What gives a gift its worth?

Consider Christ as the Gift that God has given.

John 3:16 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.

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a **Child** is born, unto us a **Son** is given: and the government shall be upon **His** shoulder: and **His** name shall be called **Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.**

Q: What makes this gift so valuable? What makes this Gift so “Wonderful”?

I. The _____ of the Gift—*God the Father*

Romans 5:8 But **God** commendeth **His** love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, **Christ** died for us.

1 John 4:9-10 In this was manifested the love of **God** toward us, because that **God** sent **His** only begotten **Son** into the world, that we might live through **Him**. Herein is love, not that we loved **God**, but that **He** loved us, and sent **His Son** to be the propitiation (*the atoning sacrifice*) for our sins.

II. The Value of the Gift— _____

2 Corinthians 8:9 For ye know the grace of our **Lord Jesus Christ**, that, though **He** was rich, yet for your sakes **He** became poor, that ye through **His** poverty might be rich.

Philippians 2:5-7 Let this mind be in you, which was also in **Christ Jesus: 6 Who**, being in the form of **God**, thought it not robbery to be equal with **God: 7** But made **Himself** of no reputation, and took upon **Him** the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

III. The _____ of the Gift—Life

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, **He** humbled **Himself**, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

“If you once love Him, you will study to please Him.” — **John Newton**

Cf. Isaiah 53:3-7

2 Corinthians 5:21 For **He** hath made **Him to be** sin for us, **Who** knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of **God** in **Him**.

IV. The Longevity of the Gift— _____

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of **God** *is* eternal life through **Jesus Christ** our **Lord**.

V. The _____ of the Gift—Our Benefit

A. The benefit of _____ (**John 3:17**)

Christ came NOT to condemn but to set us free—He came NOT to destroy but to give life and give it more abundantly.

B. The benefit of _____ (John 10:10)

Christ brought the cure—He offers the cure to all. Unfortunately, many refuse, thus choosing their fate.

C. The benefit of Life _____

Romans 6:23 – “the gift of God is eternal life.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in **Christ**, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

D. The benefit of Justification—Declared Righteous (Romans 3:24)

2 Corinthians 5:21 For **He** hath made **Him** *to be* sin for us, **Who** knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of **God** in **Him**.

The awe and wonder of this Gift of God is that through the death of Christ, He was seen by God just as we are so that we could be seen by God just as He is.

E. The benefit of Reconciliation—Right Relationship (2 Cor. 5:17-19)

2 Corinthians 5:17-19 Therefore if any man *be* in **Christ**, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. **18** And all things *are* of **God**, who hath reconciled us to **Himself** by **Jesus Christ**, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; **19** To wit, that **God** was in **Christ**, reconciling the world unto **Himself**, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Hebrews 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of **Jesus**,

F. The benefit of _____—Rest (Matthew 11:28-29)

Matthew 11:28-29 “Come unto **Me**, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29** Take **My** yoke upon you, and learn of **Me**; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”

1. Peace _____ God (Romans 5:1)

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified [*declared righteous*] by faith [*i*], we have peace with **God** through our **Lord Jesus Christ**:

2. The Peace _____ God (John 14:27)

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, **My** peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in **Me** ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of **God**, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through **Christ Jesus**.

Response: Remember the response of the humble shepherds once they heard the heavenly news? They pursued Christ; they praised Christ; and then they proclaimed Christ.

As we consider what makes this Gift so *majestic*; what makes this Gift so “*Wonderful*”; as we consider the cost that was involved. Furthermore, as we consider the longevity of this *majestic Gift*; and the One who gave the gift let us in turn see the amazing impact of this Gift and respond in worship.

As we consider Christ as the gift of God let us understand the precious, invaluable nature of this gift and let us bow in humble worship to the Gift and the Giver.

What is my next step?

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