

LIVE CHANGING STORIES FROM THE BIBLE

GOD'S GREATEST GIFT"

As we draw near to Christmas we begin to think about gifts. But there is one gift which is far above every other gift, of greater value than all other gifts put together, God's gift of his own Son. In 2 Corinthians 9:15 we read, "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"

It is a gift so wonderful that no words can be found to describe it. The wonder of God's gift may leave us speechless but that is no reason not to accept it. In fact God's gift is not ours unless we accept for ourselves. God has already given the whole human race the gift of life, but now he is offering them the gift of eternal life.

Each of us had no choice in the gift of life, it was given to us, but we all have a choice regarding the gift of eternal life. Eternal life is ours only if we accept it. The gift can be rejected. If we were dying from some disease and a cure was offered to us, free of charge, but we stubbornly refused to accept it, then the consequences of our refusal would be our own fault. Many are stubbornly rejecting God's gift of eternal life and if they persist they will ultimately suffer the consequences.

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

To believe in him is to receive him, is to accept him for ourselves, as God's gift to us. In him, and in him alone, is eternal life, we can never find it anywhere else. Together with eternal life is forgiveness of sins for there is no eternal life without forgiveness of sins. The two come together in him, as God's gift to us.

To not believe in him is to perish. To reject him is to perish. So what does the word perish mean? It means loss, loss of value, no longer of use, still in existence but no longer of any use. It is like food left too long, past its used by date, only fit to be thrown out. It is like a jacket that has been lost outside and perished in the bad weather, no longer fit for wear.

By rejecting God's Son it means we don't want, or even think, we need forgiveness of sins. We don't want to fulfil God's plan for us, we don't want to live for God, we want to go our own way, but if we do that it is like a garment left out in the mud and the rain perishing instead of hanging in a warm wardrobe dry clean and ready to be worn by its owner.

When God's gift came he did not come among the rich but among the poor. God's gift did not come among the mighty but among the humble. God's gift wasn't born in a palace but in a stable. God's gift came as a baby.

He came into the world like a little sparkling gem that was destined to sparkle and shine all over the earth among all nations as the wonderful gift of God was made known. Eternal life offered to all nations, to each and every individual. God so loved the world, that is all the people in the world and he patiently waits for people to accept his gift for as it says in his word 2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance." In other words change their mind and receive the gift.

The gift is free to us but at great cost to God. The little baby Jesus, God's Son, grew up to be a man and take on himself the punishment of every human sin when he died on the cross. Then he rose again from the dead victor over death proving he had paid the price for the gift of eternal life with his life's blood. Now he offers to all the gift that lasts for all eternity.

At Christmas many celebrate the day but don't celebrate Him. It is like putting on a birthday party but not inviting the one whose birthday it is. But let that not be us but rather let us every day celebrate his birth, his life, his death, his resurrection, his one day in the future , coming again. Let's accept and always be grateful for God's wonderful gift.

TO DIE FOR
OUR SINS
AND RISE
AGAIN



GOD'S SON SENT

TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO US
THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE
**IT'S OURS IF WE RECEIVE
HIM !**

FRANK HUTCHINSON