

The Gift of Forgiveness

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Our thoughts are centered on giving and receiving gifts at this time of year. It is one of the enjoyable aspects about Christmas. Parents are occasionally the ones who are most excited as children tear open their gifts. They live to see the joy on their children's faces. Indeed, it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

When I reflect on this, I realize that the gift of forgiveness is the greatest one we can receive from God and from people throughout our lives. God's entire plan was to send Jesus into the world so that He could go to the cross, die, and then rise again, thus obtaining our forgiveness.

1 Peter 2:24 - "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness by those stripes you were healed." Peter describes how Jesus took on our sins in His body while he was crucified and how His wounds allowed for our healing.

Most gifts are enjoyable to open and examine, so I'd want to do this with our most priceless gift — forgiveness.

Examining our gift of forgiveness

1. It's something you really needed - The same way that we exclaim, "Oh fantastic, I really could use (or wanted) one of these!" whenever we receive a new tool, bar of soap, tie, or envelope of money. We can say, as far as forgiveness is concerned, "I really needed this." The Bible says that everyone sins and because of sin the wages of sin is death. (Romans 3:23; 6:23) When we receive forgiveness from Jesus we can truly say with a sigh of relief and joy, "Wow, I really needed this!"

2. Jesus is the gift giver - The note on the box says, "To Ron from Jesus" or "To Melissa from Jesus." Jesus has the authority to forgive (Matthew 28:18).

Ephesians 1:7 - "In Him we have redemption, through His blood, the forgiveness of our sins according to the riches of His grace." We can see that this passage discusses how Jesus paid the price to purchase our forgiveness; so, our forgiveness has been completely paid for.

Jesus guarantees the gift.

If God is for us, who can be against us. (Romans 8:31)

Many people suffer from the "too good to be true" syndrome, but since Jesus, the Son of God, is the one who gives the gift, we can be confident that our actual forgiveness is greater than our doubts about our forgiveness.

Matthew 19:26 says But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible".

Even the forgiveness of every single one of your sins in the past, the present and the future. You may be confident in the caliber, potency, and longevity of your gift. It won't wear out or stop working. It will always carry out its intended purpose, which is to expiate your sins and clear your conscience once and for all.

3. Jesus has this gift for everyone - Sad to say, for many individuals, Christmas is the only time they celebrate, talk about Jesus, or attend church. They will exchange gifts with others but neglect receiving the most precious gift from Jesus Himself leaving so many unopened presents on Christmas Day. Jesus offers the gift of forgiveness and the eternal life that goes with it to everyone who will receive it.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

Jesus offers this precious gift of forgiveness to everyone who expresses their belief in Him by repenting of their sins, confessing His name publicly and by being baptized. He offers forgiveness and renewal to all Christians who have rejected or abused His gift with sinful living or neglect of church by simply confessing and stopping their sins.

Would it not make for a wonderful Christmas if you were to finally get what you truly needed? Forgiveness for your sins? Perhaps you already have this gift, but you still need assistance because you are struggling and need some help. Whatever the situation is, I encourage you to please contact us at North Main church of Christ.

“Sinners are welcomed at North Main church of Christ”