

It's all about the Gift

Read Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas and gifts go together like love and marriage. After all, isn't Christmas supposed to be the season of giving? I've noticed that even people who aren't particularly generous tend to get into the gift giving spirit at Christmastime. There's just something about the season that seems to sharpen our sense of gift giving; somehow we get that irresistible urge to give gifts not only to our close circle of family and friends, but to everyone we know: colleagues, our kids' teachers, the neighbor down the street, and whoever else comes to mind.

I'm sure by now most of us already have our gift lists made out, or at least we have in mind the gifts we want to give out this Christmas, as well as the ones we want to receive – and those of us who are adults know we enjoy the gift giving exchange just as much as the kids do. There's just something about picking out a gift, buying it, wrapping it and giving it to that special someone or placing it beneath the Christmas tree, hoping it will spread some cheer and put a smile on their face. And on the receiving end, there's that special feeling that comes just in knowing that someone thought you dear enough to get you something and then there's that tinkling feeling of anticipation of discovering the gift inside the package.

Naturally retailers love this gift giving spirit and spare no pain in assisting us get the perfect gift for everyone on our list. From the hottest gift item to the coolest, and everything in between, there's an outpouring of information and all kinds of advertisements on any gift money can buy. This month alone, multiplied billions of dollars will be spent on Christmas gifts – and that's quite all right just as long as we give within our means and for the right reasons. What would make this gift giving season a sad event indeed, however, is if in the midst of all our giving and receiving, we overlooked the ultimate Christmas Gift, because, whether or not we realize it, Christmas is all about the Gift.

Christmas is all about the Gift of gifts; the best Gift of all; the one Gift that everyone needs. It's the Gift of the Christ Child, the only begotten Son of God, sent to us wrapped in humanity that first Christmas Day, to give eternal life to anyone who would believe. “For God (*the greatest Lover*) so loved (*the greatest degree*) the world (*the greatest company*) that He gave (*the greatest act*) His only begotten Son (*the greatest Gift*) that whosoever (*the greatest opportunity*) believeth (*the greatest simplicity*) in Him (*the greatest Attraction*) should not perish (*the greatest promise*) but (*the greatest difference*) have (*the greatest certainty*) everlasting life (*the greatest possession*).”

May we receive God's Gift this Christmas!