

JESUS, The Greatest Gift of All Time

—by Peter Hammond



The man who pioneered mass production of motor vehicles, Henry Ford, said that the most successful person would be the one who would fill the greatest need the best.

There is no doubt that Jesus Christ remains the greatest person who ever lived because He made the greatest sacrifice to fill the greatest need for the greatest

- We were dead in our trespasses and sins, and Jesus came that we may have life and life in all its abundance. *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Rom 6:23
- We need forgiveness for sin and freedom from sin. He sent His Holy Spirit to empower us to live according to God's ways. (Rom 8:1-12)

ceived and confused, but He is the Truth. *"And you shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free."* John 8:32

- We were bound in sin and condemned, but there is now no condemnation for those in Christ and *"if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."* John 8:36

DO WE VALUE OUR GIFT?

A gift, by definition, is something that we did not earn, but which we receive from someone else's generosity. A gift is appreciated either because of the giver that you have received it from, or because of the value attached to the gift.

If you received a gift from the Queen of England, I'm sure that you would greatly appreciate that prize. If any Head of State were to award you something, you would probably talk to others about it and display the item most prominently.

Consider if you were in a court of law, and required to pay a fine that is way beyond a lifetime's earnings. Imagine if somebody else's sacrifice paid your fine and set you free. Would you be grateful? How might you express your gratitude? If that person asked you to do something, would you not willingly and eagerly do it? Jesus said: *"If anyone loves Me, he will obey*

My teaching..." John 14:23 God our Creator has poured out His gifts upon you. Your life. Your talents. Every moment of every day, every breath you breathe and every ray of sunshine is a gift from the hand of our Creator. The splendours of His Creation. Wonderful wildlife. Our friends and family relationships.

THE INDESCRIBABLE GIFT OF GOD TO US

Jesus lived the perfect life that you and I should have lived; He died the sinless death we deserved to die. He has paid the punishment for our sins. Not only has He won for us eternal salvation, but He offers us adoption into His family as sons and daughters of the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Have you repented of your sins? Have you confessed where you have broken God's Holy Law? If God was to judge you on the basis of His Ten Commandments, would you be innocent or guilty? If you were to die today, would you go to Heaven or hell? *"It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the Judgment."* Heb 9:27

Have you asked for His forgiveness and accepted the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you living in joyful gratitude for all His mercy and undeserved favour? Are you introducing other people to the greatest gift of all? To whom much is given, much is required. Freely you have received. Freely give. Make this Christmas your best Christmas ever by accepting God's gift of adoption into His family and inviting others to receive the greatest gift of all. *"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"* 2 Cor 9:15 ■

"He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"
Romans 8:32

number of people. The sheer thought that God of the universe, would send His Son to die for mankind, is amazing. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* John 3:16

JESUS HAS GIVEN US SO MUCH

For all who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, as the greatest gift of all time, we can reflect on what He has done for us - and what He does for us on a daily basis:

- We need life, love and light. God is love, Jesus is the Way, The Truth and The Life and He is the Light of the world. He is the abundant giver of all things good (John 10:10)
- We need Grace – undeserved favour – and it is in Jesus Christ that we find the mercy we so desperately need. *"For by Grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."* Eph 2:8-9
- We are lost, and He is the Good Shepherd Who shows us the way. We are often de-

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