

Spc225 - **The Greatest Gift of All**

**Have you opened** your **gifts** yet?

Or **are** you **saving them** for **after church?**

**I know** it may **SEEM hard** to **come** to **church** on **Christmas Day**

**Because** – you know

**we have** all those **GIFTS** at home

& **we have** all that **Christmas CELEBRATING** to do

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**& I LOVE** the **gift giving** and the **celebrating** with family – **a TON**

**But** guys – the **Gifts We Give**, & the **Celebrating We Share**

are – **at best** - a **Feeble attempt**

to **illustrate** - the **Greatest Gift Ever Given**

So - Let's Talk this Christmas morning – about

**The Greatest Gift of All**

**Let's Pray**

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The **Very FIRST Christmas Passage**

is **actually** - in the **Very FIRST Book** of the **Bible**

It **occurs** at the **Fall of Man** - in the **Garden of Eden**

It occurs when the Battle Line is DRAWN  
Between GOD & SATAN

When God tells Satan – (On the FIRST Day of the FALL)  
that Christmas - is COMING

God says to the Serpent in Genesis 3:15 (NLT)

*15 And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”*

THAT is where Christmas - actually STARTED

& THAT where the Greatest Gift of ALL – was First Promised

& today (on Christmas) we celebrate the Birth of THAT VICTORY  
Prophesied in Gen 3:15 - By God Himself

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Altho Satan is NOT Omniscient

He sure worked Hard  
to KEEP Jesus from being born

Satan WATCHED  
as God chose Abraham & the Jewish People

& since the Beginning of God's Covenant with Abraham  
to BRING the SAVIOR into the World

Satan had been trying to STOP IT from happening

**Satan tried** to have all the **Jewish baby boys** killed in **EGYPT**  
to **stop** the **continuation** of **the Jewish Race**

He **tried** to have **ALL the Jews** killed in the **Book of ESTHER**  
for the **same reason**

& when **Jesus** was born – **Satan** got **Herod**  
to **Kill** all the **baby boys** in **Bethlehem**

**Trying to Eliminate** this **Promised Child**

**But** all the **Enemy's Schemes & Plans** - **FAILED**

& **Jesus Christ** – **God in the Flesh** - **WAS** Born

**Born** in a Manger - in the **Most Humble** Beginnings

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& **No one Knew** the **True Extent**  
of this “**Greatest Gift of ALL**”

But **God** gave some **WISE MEN** a **clue** - **in a STAR**

& **they** went **Searching for the Savior** –  
& we **looked** at **their Journey** Last **Sunday**

& When **they found** the baby **Jesus** –  
they **Prophesied MUCH** - **in the Gifts** they Gave Him

**Matthew 2:11 (NLT)**

*11 [The wisemen] entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

**THEY GAVE HIM GOLD FOR A KING**

**Because** this **Babe in the Manger**  
was actually the **King of Kings** - & **Lord of Lords**

**THEY GAVE HIM FRANKINCENSE**

**Which** was **used** by the **Priests** in their **service** to God

**Because** this **Babe in the Manger**  
was **actually** our **Great High Priest**

**He would** hold out **ONE Hand to God** - & **ONE Hand to US**  
& He would **BE our BRIDGE** to God

**THEY GAVE HIM MYRRH**

**Which** would **have** been **considered** an **ODD Gift**

**Because Myrrh** was used to **Prepare bodies** for **burial**

**Because** this **Baby** in the **manger**  
**Actually** came to **DIE on the Cross** - for **our SINS**

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The **Greatest Gift of All**  
Is **God GIVING US** – **Jesus Christ**

**In Jesus Christ**  
Is the **fullness** of **ALL** that **God** has **given us**

**In Jesus Christ is**  
the **Fullness of God** - the **Glory of God**  
the **Grace of God** - the **Power of God**  
the **Salvation of God**  
& the **Heart of God TO YOU**  
& the **LOVE of God FOR YOU**

**Jesus Christ** is the **Greatest Gift** – **God** could **EVER Give YOU**

& He was **Born** in **the Manger** - as the **Ultimate Expression**  
of the **Love of God** for **YOU** - personally

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**JESUS IS - The Greatest Gift Of All**

**Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV)**

*6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given . . .*

From **Man's Perspective** - *a Child was born*

From **Heaven's Perspective** – *a SON was GIVEN*

**John 3:16 (NLT)**

***16 “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.***

**God Loved you SO MUCH - That he Freely gave you  
the Greatest GIFT of ALL – His Son, Jesus**

**So That, if you would put your faith in Him –  
you would NEVER Perish – But have Eternal Life**

**God’s Love for YOU  
Was BORN in BETHLEHEM that day**

**So that you could Freely Receive  
the Gift of Eternal Life - TODAY**

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**& to make sure You would NOT THINK  
that this Gift was somehow – ABOVE YOU**

**Jesus Christ was Given to the World  
In the Humblest Possible Way**

The Greatest Gift of ALL  
was brought to you in the Humblest of Wrappings

So no matter how LOW you saw yourself  
you could RECEIVE His Gift

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The **Greatest Gift of All**  
**WAS** given in the **Humblest of all Wrappings**

**Even tho** it was the **Most Glorious Gift**  
**All Creation** will **EVER** see

& **not only** Was it Given  
in the **Humblest of all Wrappings**

**but** it was **also given** – as **a Gift we could Never DESERVE**

**Ephesians 2:8–9 (NLT)**

*8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.*

*9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.*

We **can't EARN** this **Gift**

We **Can't DESERVE** this **Gift**

We can't **TAKE CREDIT** for this **Gift**

& it is **NOT a REWARD** for **anything** we have **done**

**This Gift** is **Freely Given** to us - **BY God's GRACE**

& is **Received Simply** thru **our Genuine FAITH**

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**BUT - We give gifts to those  
who have been kind to us – Don't We?**

**We give gifts to those  
who DESERVE our gifts - Usually**

**We don't normally give gifts to our ENEMIES**

But **that is Exactly** what **God did** - with the **Greatest Gift Of All**

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Our **Sin NATURE** is **AT WAR** with **GOD**

**Romans 8:7 (NLT)**

***7 For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will.***

**But** it was **Right at THAT point**

**When** our **Sin Nature** was "**At War**" with **God**

that **God gave us** - the **Greatest Gift Of All**

**When** we **were Set Against God** in **our Sin**

It was **THEN** - that **Jesus Christ Sacrificed** His **Own Life**  
to Offer us the **Gift of Eternal Life**

**Romans 5:8 (NLT)**

***8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.***



The **Greatest Gift of All**

is **the Gift** we could **NEVER EARN** - & **NEVER DESERVE**

& was **given to us**

**While** we were **LOST in our Sin**

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**LASTLY - the Gift** always

**tells us something about the Giver doesn't it?**

& the **Greatest Gift of ALL**

Tells us **SO MUCH** about the **GIVER**

It **Tells us** – that **God KNOWS** what We **Truly Need**

Because **God knows** – **THIS life** is a **VAPOR**

& **He knows** - if he **JUST** Gives Us

**things** for **THIS LIFE**

they would ALL **soon be gone**

like all those **shiny presents**

But **God's Greatest Gift** - is **for** our **ETERNAL LIFE**

It's **Not** for this **Temporal** & **Fleeting Life**

it's for **Real Eternal Life** - **with God Himself !!**

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& God's Gift to You - is a Gift that took  
the Greatest Possible Sacrifice - on the GIVER'S Part

The only way for God to give you  
His Gift of Eternal Life

Was to first TAKE ON HIMSELF  
the Full Penalty of your SIN

God couldn't just Ignore or Excuse  
your sin - He had to pay the full penalty for it

& so - in your place  
He BORE the Full Penalty for your sin

So that you could Receive  
His Ultimate Gift of Eternal Life

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So - Christmas IS about A GIFT

But Not those shiny gifts  
that need batteries & disappear quickly

Christmas is about THE Gift of Eternal Life  
Given BY God - to Us

A Gift Given - When we least Deserved it –  
A Gift Given - When we could Never Earn it

It's a **Gift** that will **NEVER LEAVE** us  
& **NEVER FADE** away

A **Gift** that gets **More & MORE GLORIOUS**  
**Every day** that we **live in it**

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**Here** is how **John Ch 1**  
**Describes RECEIVING** this **Greatest Gift of All**

**John 1:12 (ESV)**

***12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,***

& **THAT** - is the **Greatest Gift of All**  
***. . . to become a Child of God***

**It's a Gift** that was **prepared for you**  
***before the foundation of the world***

& **it's a Gift** that will **CARRY YOU** - thru all **Eternity**

It's the Gift of **TRUE LIFE** - Of **ABUNDANT LIFE**  
of **ETERNAL LIFE**

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**All those** shiny presents will soon **VAPORIZE**

& the **Gift of God** will **stand alone** in the **END**  
**with you** either **RECEIVING IT** - or **REJECTING IT**

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It's a wonderful day to Give & Receive Gifts

But if you miss Receiving the Greatest Gift of All

Then you Will have MISSED - the TRUE PURPOSE of Christmas

Jesus said in John 10:10 (NKJV)

*10 . . . I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

I pray you would Receive – The Greatest Gift Of All - TODAY

Let's Pray