God's Christmas Gift

(John 3:16 KJV)

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

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here is an awful lot of sentimental attention and excitement about Christmas as there is about many other special days like Mother's Day, Birthdays, Easter, Wedding Anniversaries, and others to numerous to mention. But it's something special about Christmas that makes us get all thrilled up about Santa Claus with Donner and Blitzen and the rest of the crew. We prepare to eat our favorite meals, drink our best drinks, listen and dance to our favorite jams. In fact, we deck the halls with boughs of holly, we put wreaths in our windows, and secure that descendent of the sacred oak of the ancient Germans known as a Christmas tree—they are very nice, tall and often very beautiful, but they are only subsidiary matters. I suppose every special day has special ways in which it should be celebrated. But what good will it do for a man who is under the judgment of God for sin to Celebrate Christmas and sing Christmas carols?

This is absolutely the predicament that you and I are involved in. Historically, Christmas is the day when God made provision for us to escape from that predicament. And sadly, too often our attention is on a infant baby in a manger who, except as a promise of what is to be, can scarcely do this for us.

Moreover, Christmas is an occasion when nearly every person's thoughts turn to gifts and giving. In fact, many of us may open our gifts on Christmas morning while others may open them on Christmas Eve. There may be a few that will wait to a later date to open them, but every gift is given with one purpose—and that is it will be opened by the one who openly receives it!

All over the world giving one another gifts has been a part of the Christmas celebration for many years—because it significantly symbolizes the love we have for each other, and it is a déjà vu reminder that God loved us so much—that He gave a wonderful gift for each one of us. So, today I want to talk about the greatest gift of all and that's, "God's Christmas Gift!"

The Bible says in John 3:16 - ***''For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life***.'' Wrapped up in this one verse is the whole story of Christmas. Someone has said that if every other passage in the Bible were thrown away and only John 3:16 were left, there would still be enough simple gospel to save the whole world.

There's enough truth in this verse to fill a thousand sermons. This is surely the greatest verse ever penned. All the great writings of the poets and the sages of all the world fall short of that one sentence. This verse has been called the gospel in a nutshell. It is and has been called the world's greatest love story. It has been called the gospel of Christ in one sentence, but at Christmas, I call it God's Christmas gift to you.

1. **The Proclamation Of God's Love**

(John 3:16 KJV)

***For God so loved the world****, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

John 3:16 begins as the Bible begins, with the existence of God taken for granted—only a fool would think otherwise. The whole Bible stands on belief in God. In fact, there cannot be a here without a there. There cannot be an upper without a lower. There cannot be a before without an after. And there cannot be a creation without a Creator!

This is a tremendous proclamation and it is astonishing by man. In the text Jesus is in dialogable conversation with Nicodemus who knew God to be a God of sacredness, who was the self existent God of law and divine judgment. But the Pharisees who were Jews did not possess or stress the love of God. The Jews believed that God discriminated towards the non-religious Gentiles and only loved the religious devote Jew. The same thoughts are held by many in every generation, especially by religionists. The fact that God truly loves is shocking to many. Some wonder and others question how God could possibly love the—vile person, murderer, thief, alcoholic, bitter person, vengeful person, liar, gossiper, busy body, that low down and dirty person, nosey next door neighbor, that person with a bad attitude, that sneaky person, and unforgiving person. Although many of us don't like those kinds of people—Jesus still love them! What a Gift!