*Many Gifts* are purchased each year, especially in December. At Christmas time so many people . . .



-Spend money they do not have
-On some people they don't even like
-Buying gifts they may never use!

However, on that first Christmas, God the Father gave . . .

-Out of His abundant riches
-To people He does love
-The greatest gift the world would ever receive!

The Bible proclaims: "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)

God is the giver of life and all good things. But God's greatest gift is the gift of His Son, Jesus the Messiah (the Christ).

## What makes God's gift of the Messiah the greatest gift?

### 1. The greatest gift was promised hundreds of years before given



In the Old Testament Hebrew Scriptures, God predicted that a unique child would be born of a virgin at a specific time in the little town of Bethlehem. Angels praised & worshipped Jesus at His birth! [See the Bible: Isaiah 9:6; 7:14; Daniel 9:25; Micah 5:2; Luke 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:6]

### 2. The greatest gift was given to the most unworthy

Sinners need a Savior! God says: "…There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God…there is none that doeth good, no, not one…There is no fear of God before their eyes…For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:10-18; 23)

It is amazing that God would give something of such infinite value to such unworthy humanity.

### 3. The greatest gift was given to meet the greatest need

If humanity's greatest need was education, God would have sent a teacher. If our greatest need was social reform, God would have sent us a good politician. If our greatest need was money, God would have sent a generous banker. But since our greatest need is forgiveness, God sent us a loving and merciful Savior! You see, my friend, sin separates us from having a relationship with God. "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." (Isaiah 59:2) And sin brings death to its victims. "For the wages (payment) of sin is death (includes physical, spiritual and eternal death). (Romans 6:23a)



### 4. The greatest gift was given at the greatest price

The greatest act of humility in history was for the Messiah (Jesus) to leave Heaven's glory and come into this sin-cursed earth, to live a humble life and die a humble death as a substitute payment for your sins and mine. "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9)



"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: …All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:5-6)

The Bible teaches us that "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

### 5. The greatest gift is given at no cost to the receiver *(it is free)*




Not many things in life are free. But God's **gift** of everlasting life is offered freely to you! "…the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23) "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9) Jesus said "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life **freely**." (Revelation 21:6)

### 6. The greatest gift will last forever



Most of the gifts we receive in life only last for a short time. God's gift, however, lasts a lifetime and will benefit us for eternity. God's gift is everlasting life! (John 3:16) This is a gift that never grows old and can never be lost. The Lord Jesus promised this regarding those who belong to Him: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." (John 10:27-28). If you put your trust in Jesus Christ, you will be safe in His hand forever!