Why a Gift?



(Romans 5:12-21 and Selected Scriptures)
12/24/2019

Why can we not do something to earn God's Salvation?
Why is God's Salvation offered as a Free Gift?

Salvation must be a Gift because it is…

I. **Needed by <u>All</u>** (Romans 5:12a)
(A Great Need necessitates a Great Gift;
An Infinite penalty for Sin demands and infinite payment to be made)

II. **Deserved by <u>None</u>** (Romans 5:12b)
(God's Salvation is too costly to be deserved and earned)

III. **Provided by <u>One</u>** (Romans 5:19)
(Only one person–God could provide such a gift)

IV. **Obtained by <u>Faith</u>** (Romans 3:22; 5:1)
(A gift is simple enough to be received by anyone)



A Gift is simple enough for all to understand.
2 Corinthians 11:3 … the <u>simplicity</u> that is in Christ.

A Gift can be received by anyone with childlike dependency



V. **Imparting <u>Righteousness & Life Forever</u>** (Romans 5:17)
(The Benefit offered could only come from God)

VI. **Resulting in <u>God's Glory & Praise</u>** (Eph.1:6; 2:9)
(No other plan would bring God higher Credit and Honor)

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Every year just prior to December 25th a lot of gift purchasing goes on around the world. Christmas for many wholesalers and retailers means big business. Christmas time is a multi-billion dollar occasion. No wonder the world so readily acknowledges a day that is supposed to relate somehow to Jesus Christ.

At Christmas time so many...
Spend money they do not have
On people they do not like
To buy gifts they will never use

However, on that first "Christmas" whether or not it was December 25th, God the Father gave the greatest gift this world would ever receive. He gave the gift of His Son.

God gave...
Out of His abundant Riches, His greatest Gift
To people He does love
A gift that will benefit the one who receives it, both now and forever.

Anything God gives is good. He is the giver of life and all good things that come to us in this life and beyond.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

However, only the believer will fully appreciate all that God gives:
1 Corinthians 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable (indescribable) gift.

Words cannot describe all of the blessings that come with His gift which is offered to the entire world.

What makes God's gift the greatest gift ever given?

1. The greatest gift was given to the most unworthy
2. The greatest gift was given to meet the greatest need
3. The greatest gift was given at the greatest price
4. The greatest gift was given at no cost to the receiver (it is free)
5. The greatest gift was given to last an eternity
6. The greatest gift can be yours today
7. The greatest gift comes with the greatest benefits

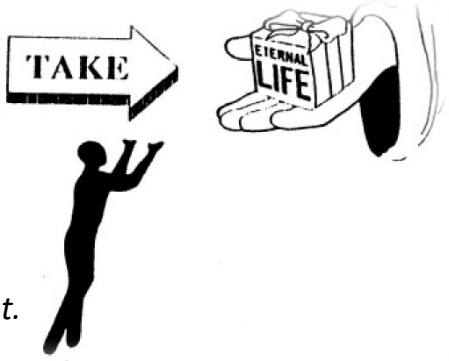
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THE ART COLLECTOR'S SON

Author Unknown

Years ago, there was a very wealthy man who, with his devoted young son, shared a passion for art collecting. Together they traveled around the world, adding only the finest art treasures to their collection.

Priceless works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Monet and many others adorned the walls of the family estate.

The widowed, elder man looked on with satisfaction, as his only child became an experienced art collector. The son's trained eye and sharp business mind caused his father to beam with pride as they dealt with art collectors around the world.

As winter approached, war engulfed the nation, and the young man left to serve his country. After only a few short weeks, his father received a telegram. His beloved son was missing in action. The art collector anxiously awaited more news, fearing he would never see his son again. Within days, his fears were confirmed. The young man had died while rushing a fellow soldier to a medic.

Distraught and lonely, the old man faced the upcoming Christmas holidays with anguish and sadness. The joy of the season, a season that he and his son had so looked forward to, would visit his house no longer.

On Christmas morning, a knock on the door awakened the depressed old man. As he walked to the door, the masterpieces of art on the walls only reminded him that his son was not coming home. As he opened the door, a soldier greeted him with a large package in his hand. He introduced himself to the man by saying, "I was a friend of your son. I was the one he was rescuing when he died. May I come in for a few moments? I have something to show you."

As the two began to talk, the soldier told of how the man's son had told every one of his, not to mention his father's, love of fine art. "I'm an artist," said the soldier, "and I want to give you this."

As the old man opened the package, the paper gave way to reveal a portrait of the man's son. Though the world would never consider it the work of a genius, the painting featured the young man's face in striking detail. Overcome with emotion, the man thanked the solider, promising to hang the picture above the fireplace.

A few hours later, after the soldier had departed, the old man set about his task. True to his word, the painting went above the fireplace, pushing aside thousands of dollars of paintings. And then the man sat in his chair and spent Christmas gazing at the gift he had been given.

During the days and weeks that followed, the man realized that even though his son was no longer with him, the boy's life would live on because of those he had touched. He would soon learn that his son had rescued dozens of wounded soldiers before a bullet stilled his caring heart.

As the stories of his son's gallantry continued to reach him, fatherly pride and satisfaction began to ease the grief. The painting of his son soon became his most prized possession, far eclipsing any interest in the pieces for which museums around the world clamored. He told his neighbors it was the greatest gift he had ever received.

The following spring, the old man became ill and passed away. The art world was in anticipation! Unmindful of the story of the man's only son, but in his honor, those paintings would be sold at an auction.

According to the will of the old man, all of the art works would be auctioned on Christmas Day, the day he had received his greatest gift.

The day soon arrived and art collectors from around the world gathered to bid on some of the world's most spectacular paintings.

Dreams would be fulfilled this day; greatness would be achieved as many would claim, "I have the greatest collection."

The auction began with a painting that was not on any museum's list. It was the painting of the man's son. The auctioneer asked for an opening bid. The room was silent.

"Who will open the bidding with $100?" he asked. Minutes passed. No one spoke.

From the back of the room came, "Who cares about that painting? It's just a picture of his son."

"Let's forget it and go on to the good stuff." More voices echoed in agreement.

"No, we have to sell this one first," replied the auctioneer. "Now, who will take the son?"

Finally, a friend of the old man spoke, "Will you take ten dollars for the painting? That's all I have. I knew the boy, so I'd like to have it."

"I have ten dollars. Will anyone go higher?" called the auctioneer.

After more silence, the auctioneer said, "Going once, going twice. Gone." The gavel fell.

Cheers filled the room and someone exclaimed, "Now we can get on with it and we can bid on these treasures!"

The auctioneer looked at the audience and announced the auction was over. Stunned disbelief quieted the room.

Someone spoke up and asked, "What do you mean it's over? We didn't come here for a picture of some old guy's son. And what about all of these other paintings? There are millions of dollars of art here! I demand that you explain what's going on here!"

The auctioneer replied, "It's very simple. According to the will of the father, whoever takes the son gets it all."

Just as those art collectors discovered on that Christmas Day, the message is still the same - the love of a Father, a Father whose greatest joy came from His Son, who went away and gave His life rescuing others.

And because of that Father's love, whoever takes the Son, gets it all!

Remember He is the Reason for the Season!

Merry CHRISTmas