



# THE TRUE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS



25<sup>th</sup> December 2016





# True Gift of Christmas

- ❧ We all like to receive gifts.
- ❧ Gifts is something we received freely. Is not a reward.
- ❧ Think about the best gift you have ever received.
- ❧ There is 2 side to gifts. You are either the one who received or the one to give.



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☞ Acts 20:35

☞ “In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

☞ Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."



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- ☞ **MANY** have made the mistake of buying into the myth of more—the belief that if we **RECEIVE** and **RECEIVE** and **RECEIVE** — well, eventually **MORE** will be enough. This is why so many of us spend our lives looking for **THE NEXT THING** to get more of.
- ☞ The problem is this feeling always wears off and we find ourselves right back where we started—wanting to receive **MORE**.



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- œ People in history who have had MORE of anything they wanted have learned that MORE never brings us satisfaction
- œ King Solomon is a perfect example. He had more wives, more money, more homes, more fame—and he learned that more is a myth. Do you remember his words? He said that “Striving to GET more is no better than chasing after the wind.” It never satisfies our wanting.



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- œ In GIVING, let's admit it— isn't it FUN to see the joy that our gifts to others brings?
- œ This is a principle that TRULY happy people have embraced. In fact, I have never known someone who was a truly giving person who did not also have a smile on their face. GIVING and JOY seem to be a package deal.

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- œ As eternal beings made in the image of God, we were made - we were designed - to find joy in doing things of ETERNAL significance - like GIVING. Getting doesn't really last - but GIVING to help PEOPLE does.
- œ Wise people build their lives around what is eternal and squeeze in what is temporary. Many do the opposite.



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œ “What is Christmas?”

œ We all know is a tradition to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

œ We’ve kept that tradition going for generations now

œ We give gifts to everyone but Jesus.



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- œ “Give him your trust. Faith is a voluntary matter. Jesus doesn’t have your trust unless you give it to him. He will never force it.
- œ Make Jesus first place in your life. This Christmas, choose to make Jesus first in your finances, interests, relationships, and schedule - and even in your troubles.



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- ☞ Give Jesus your heart. Your heart is what you love, what you value, and what you care about most. Jesus says, *“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”* (Luke 12:34 NIV)
- ☞ Bring other people to Jesus. God wants a family more than anything else this Christmas. It is the reason we celebrate Christmas. Invite someone to Jesus this Christmas. Tell someone about what Jesus has done in your life



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- œ The Wise Men didn't give Jesus their leftovers when they visited him on the first Christmas but instead gave three very significant and valuable gifts: *"They bowed down and worshiped him.*
- œ *They opened their gifts and gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*"(Matthew 2:11 NCV)
- œ Will you give Jesus what you can this Christmas?



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Merry Christmas