A Gift to Change the Heart

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Matthew 28:18 All power is given unto me John 8:24 Ye shall die in your sins: for if ye John 12:46 I am come a light into the world John 15:12 That ye love one another John 18:37 You say rightly that I am a king

- 1 The Gift of a Savior God gave to the world is to change the heart of all who would believe Him, accept Him, and live by the plan He wrote in much detail in His Book.
- 2 Living by the plan would change our desires, our attitudes, and our destination!
- 3 Those who do not believe in His plan and do not accept the Gift He gives they continue to walk in the dark—but that must change.
- 4 He said AV John 12:46 "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness."
- **5** Many things distract our attention during Advent—we can easily miss the *reason* for the *season* if we are not aware of *what* or *who* is distracting us.
- 6 Advent season is usually when too many people, spend too much money, on too many others who don't need more *things*—but do need more *inspiration* of the Spirit to live a godly life of faith in God.
- 7 Advent should be a *joyous* time of the year—gathering with family, friends, and loved ones who share a common faith in Christ.

- 8 The good news of Christmas is not just lights, gifts, and good foods, but it is a reminder to focus on the *Gift* from God that must change our heart.
- **9** This holiday is when we should *think* about our attitudes and make a re-commitment to follow God's plan—it is a time when we *trust* the Lord to give us a forgiving heart and a loving spirit toward everyone.
- **10** Jesus was born on earth to give anyone who would believe, a living *hope* of eternal life in Heaven.
- **11** His life is to change our life of self-interest and self-centeredness, to divine-interests and Christ-centeredness. Jesus is Emmanuel—God with us.
- 12 Jesus has the *power* to do what we need accomplished in our life—most importantly the spiritual work on our heart in preparing us for Heaven. AV Matthew 28:18 "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."
- **13** There are 4 main points concerning the arrival of a Messiah.
- 14 —To show us the Father NLT John 1:18 "No one has ever seen God. But his only Son, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart; he has told us about him."
- **15** God is not seen by humans, but Jesus shows us the *nature* and *love* of God. It is AV Romans 5:8 "His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
- **16** Jesus lived with us for a time to show us the Father. Av **2** Corinthians **4:6** "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."
- 17 To bring all this about, God had to leave His throne in Heaven and appear on earth in the Person of Jesus.

- **18** Old Testament patriarchs only saw an angelic *form* of God, but New Testament believers actually *met* the Lord Jesus.
- **19** AV Mark 9:4 "And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus."
- **20** When Stephen was being stoned, AV Acts 7:55 he "saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God."
- **21 2**—*To deal with our sin* AV **1** John **3:5** "Ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin."
- **22** Jesus told Pilate: NKJV **John 18:37** "You say rightly that I am a **king**. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world."
- **23** Everyone falls short of divine righteousness, so if Jesus would be willing to die for the payment of the sins of everyone, they *could* have divine righteousness because He was righteous.
- **24** It is sin that separates us from God—and the separation is *so wide*, that *no one* would be able to close it by themselves.
- **25** This huge gulf cannot be closed by good deeds; not by any effort we can put forth; not by saying long prayers or by any other way.
- **26** Even being honest and sincere does not bring us closer to a holy God. Virtuous deeds cannot remove the guilt of our sin.
- **27** Everyone needs a Messiah and a *Savior* to *pay* that huge sin-debt by His perfect blood sacrifice.
- **28** The *message* of this season is the Gift of a *Savior* who is received by those who believe that Jesus *is* who He *says* He is—and He clearly stated:
- **29** AV **John 8:24** "Ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that **I** am he, ye shall die in your sins."
- **30** Jesus left a paradise in Heaven to be born on earth in a stable. This was the divine plan to save a lost world.

- **31** All that anyone has to do is *believe* Him, *accept* Him, and *follow* His detailed plan every day by the power of His Spirit.
- **32** God came to earth, made the journey to the Cross, and paid the sin-debt of the world. He was born to be the Light everyone needs.
- **33** AV Colossians 1:13 "Who hath delivered us from the power darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:"
- **34** To all who *believe* and *accept* as their Savior, their Mentor, and their Counselor to Guide them every day concerning everything, their sins will be *forgiven* and will be *justified* before God.
- **35** It is a major change—they will be prepared by the power of the Spirit and *redeemed* by the Blood of the Lamb.
- **36** It is the Messiah who came to save and AV Colossians 1:14 "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."
- **37** Everyone must really *want* to change for the change to start taking place. We have to actually begin *trusting* God to *change* and *convert* our heart—
- **38** AV Matthew 18:3 "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."
- **39** 3—To destroy the power of the devil because Satan is out to destroy our soul. He begins by separating us from God and diminishing any preparation that began in us.
- **40** It is why Jesus was born on *earth* to save us for *Heaven*. We now have that critical choice to put our *faith* in God and our *trust* on the Blood of Christ.
- **41** Nothing the devil has ever *done* is too hard for Jesus to *undo*. Whenever we are tempted to sin, we must call on the Lord to *help* us get through.
- **42** The devil tries to have us desire *something* or *someone* that God has said is *not right* for us—

- treasure on earth; resentful attitude; or anything outside the will of God.
- **43** AV **James 1:14** "Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed."
- **44 4 To prepare us for Heaven.** AV **Hebrews 9:28** "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."
- **45** We look to Him for *Light* in the world, so we will not walk in spiritual darkness.
- 46 Our thoughts this season are to be of joy and gladness because of the arrival of Christ. We sing seasonal songs and thank God for the Gift, but we know that this world cannot continue as it is!
- 47 The horrible wrongs against people; the lawlessness that seems to be everywhere; the increase of crime; terrorism; and immoral behavior—are all signs of Christ's return.
- **48** The Jesus who *came*, is the Savior who *returns!* We must allow God to prepare us to meet Him—it should be our *only* focus!
- **49** When Jesus ascended into Heaven, two men in white said —NIV Acts 1:11 "Why do you stand here looking into the sky?
- **50** This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."
- 51 Most people today live as if life will go on and on—like they have all the time in the world—but they don't have all the time in the world and *neither* do we.
- **52** Jesus is coming *back* to this earth to take us with Him! We must remain in a position of faith and trust on Him!
- **53** Christmas introduces the world to the *Forever Gift of God*—a Gift that can *forever change* our heart and attitudes—if we are *willing* to believe that He *is* God and is *able* to do for us what

- *needs* to be done to enter His kingdom—that all-important *Change of Heart!*
- **54** Christmas is a good time to reflect on God's *love* and to think about His *promise* to heal; protect; provide; and to give peace and an attitude of good will toward all.
- **55** Christmas is a time to be more *considerate* of others; a time to say: *How can I help you?* It is a time of *giving* and wanting *nothing* in return; a time to make someone feel *wanted* and *loved* and *appreciated*.
- **56** It is a time to *forgive* because of all the forgiveness God has given us!
- **57** Jesus us gave us this command AV John 15:12 "That ye love one another, as I have loved you."
- **58** A Forever Gift that keeps on giving forever has been given to all who AV John 6:29 "Believe on him whom he hath sent."
- **59** Now, may God's gracious *Gift forever change our heart!*



- 1—To show us the Father
- 2—To deal with our sin
- 3—To destroy Satan's power
- 4—To prepare us for Heaven

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