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PRICELESS

On Good Ground

God's Gift to Us



During the Christmas season, the focus of much of the Western world is on gifts – gifts to buy for family and friends, and gifts one hopes to receive. The commercialization of Christmas is so far down the road in our modern culture that there seems to be no turning back.

Yet the truth still stands, and can be embraced by anyone who desires to receive it. And the truth is this: Christmas is not about our gifts to one another; it's about God's gifts to us through His Son Jesus Christ.

Through Jesus we have the gift of eternal life. In Romans 6:23, the Apostle Paul wrote: *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* Salvation is the ultimate gift – not a new car with a huge red bow on top; not a shiny piece of new jewelry; not an oversized television set, but salvation, which only comes from God. The Bible says, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God"* (Ephesians 2:8). The prophet Jonah makes this truth even more plain when he declares, *"Salvation is from the Lord"* (Jonah 2:9).

With salvation comes so many other gifts: love, peace, joy, forgiveness, comfort, rest, protection, provision, redemption, healing, strength, wisdom, knowledge, understanding, unity, compassion, prosperity, grace, mercy, fellowship, and so much more. These are God's gifts to us.

When it comes to gifts, however, there is a driving principle that must be understood and exercised: every gift, to be effectual, must be received. Receipt is a key element. God's wonderful gifts to mankind will not be forced on anyone. Every person must exercise his or her own free will and choose to receive the gift of God. This Christmas, and every other time of the year, God's gift of salvation stands as the best gift you could ever hope to receive.

If you're saved, are you presently enjoying all of the wonderful gifts given unto you from God through Jesus Christ? Or have you allowed the passage of

time to lead you to that awful place of indifference where we too often find ourselves when it comes to the material gifts that once-upon-a-time we were so excited to have? If so, reclaim your joy in Jesus this Christmas. Embrace God's precious gift to the world anew, with fresh understanding and thanksgiving.

If you have not yet received the gift of God, make sure that you put Jesus at the top of your Christmas wish list. Nothing will make God the Father happier that you receiving His Son into your life this Christmas. Simply say "yes" to God's gift and your life will never be the same. Invite Jesus into your heart right now, and begin enjoying all of the wonder of what truly marks the Christmas season.

From the entire On Good Ground family, we wish you and your loved ones a very Merry CHRISTmas and a blessed New Year!

