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THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

GOD'S GREAT GIFTS

Have you ever received a gift you disliked or one that was of no benefit to you? Perhaps you disliked it so much that you returned it to the place from which it was purchased. Gifts received and given by men are often imperfect.

The Bible teaches that God is a gift giver. James 1:17, declares, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." The gifts God gives are both good and perfect. God's gifts are just exactly what each of us need. God's gifts are given out of love for us. His greatest desire is our eternal salvation (2 Peter 3:9). His gifts are designed to supply us the necessary knowledge and direction in life so that He can give us the gift of eternal life. Consider these God-given gifts:

The gift of LIFE: When God created man, He breathed into his nostrils "the breath of life and man became a living soul" (Genesis 2:7). When God finished the creation, which included man, He declared it to be "very good" (Genesis 1:31). Far too many take the gift of life for granted wasting their life in sinful pursuits, thereby diminishing the very purpose for which God gave them life (Eccl. 12:13).

The gift of REVELATION. The Bible is the completed revelation of God's will for mankind. This good and perfect gift reveals God's plan for our salvation from sin and how we can the benefits of that plan (Psalm 119:105; John 8:32; 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The gift of JESUS. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that who ever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). It is the love of God for all of us that motivated this good and perfect gift. The benefits of this gift are offered to every person (Titus 2:11-12). Jesus shed His precious blood to provide the forgiveness of sins for all who will accept His offer of salvation through obedience to what the Lord has commanded for salvation (Hebrews 5:8-9). As is true with any gift, there must be acceptance of the gift that is offered for the giving to be complete. One accepts the gift of salvation through Jesus by obeying His will (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4).

The gift of ETERNAL LIFE. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). This is the ultimate gift of God. To be with the Godhead in eternity, to enjoy the fellowship, the love and the presence of God is an indescribable gift that will only be given to those who accept the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. It is our plea that each reader will accept God's good and perfect gifts before the opportunity is no more (2 Corinthians 6:2).