

A Neglected Gift





After Christmas morning has been and gone, there are usually very few presents remaining under the tree. No child ever forgets to open their gifts! A parent would feel terrible if their child neglected the gift that was bought for them as Christmas.

God knows exactly how that parent would feel, because God himself has given the world a gift and yet many neglect it even though they revel in the festivities of Christmas. They forget that this celebration is all about God's gift.

What gift does God offer mankind?

The Bible plainly tells us that

“the gift of God is eternal life.” (*Romans 6:23*)

To have eternal life means that one will go to be in the presence of God in Heaven at death instead of being separated from God in the second death:

“the lake of fire...is the second death.” (*Revelation 20:14*)

Every man and woman justly deserves the second death because

“all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”
(*Romans 3:23*)

We are all guilty of lying, greed, pride, lust and putting ourselves before God and fellow man. A just and holy God cannot overlook such behaviour which is why He became a man 2000 years ago, lived a perfect life and was crucified on a cross. When Jesus Christ died, He did not merely die as a martyr — He died **“for our sins.”** (*1 Corinthians 15:3*)

That is, He was punished in our place.

“The just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God.”

(*1 Peter 3:18*)

This is what Christmas is all about: God's gift of salvation available to all who will receive it. Yet God forces His gift upon no-one.

We are free to receive or neglect it as will, however, the Bible asks, **"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?"** (*Hebrews 2:3*)



Just like all gifts, His gift is without charge. The Bible calls it the **"free gift."** (*Romans 5:15*)



Many people feel that they must pay or work their way to eternal life by religion or good works. However, this is a great offence to God who has paid for our salvation with His own blood. You cannot save yourself neither can you help pay for that which Jesus Christ has already done for you. You need only trust and believe with all your heart in what He has done for you and you shall be saved.

You do not need to wait for Christmas to receive God's gift of eternal life. Simply come to God as a sinner right now, confessing your great need of a Saviour.

Believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died and rose again to take away your sins. Call upon Him right now and receive Him as your Saviour.

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

(*Romans 10:13*)