

CHRISTMAS – A TIME FOR GIVING

Matthew 2:11

Introduction:

1. The wisemen gave gifts fit for a king.
 - A. Gold – an acknowledgement of Christ’s deity.
 - B. Frankincense – a symbol of prayer ascending to heaven.
 - C. Myrrh – signified that Jesus would pour out His life even to death to secure our redemption.
2. These gifts were given to supply needs to the poor but were representing the prophetic life and ministry of Christ.
3. Even the heathen give gifts at Christmas.
4. Everywhere you go folks are collecting gifts in and outside stores.
5. Today, we need to give gifts to the Lord and His work.
6. I want us to look at 3 things we can give this Christmas that will make a difference in our lives and in God’s kingdom.

I. CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR “GIVING UP.”

{We must give up some things before our giving will move the heart and the hand of a holy and sinless God}

1. Give up selfishness.
 - A. The Bible has a lot to say concerning the sin of selfishness.
 - B. Perhaps one of the clearest verses is Philippians 2:3, which says, ***Do nothing from selfish or empty conceit but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself.***
2. Give up sin.
 - A. Sin is always first against God, then against ourselves and others.
 - B. II Timothy 2:19 puts it this way, ***Those that name the name of Christ must depart from iniquity.***
3. Give up self-centered habits.
 - A. Romans 14:13 – ***Let us not, therefore, judge one another any more; but judge this, rather: that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother’s way.***
 - B. Romans 14:21–***It is good neither to eat meat, nor to drink wine, nor anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.***
 - C. I Corinthians 8:12 – ***But when you sin against the brethren and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.***
 - D. Practicing sinful habits cause weak Christians & powerless churches.

II. CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR “GIVING IN.”

1. Surrender to Christ’s love.
 - A. John 3:16 – ***For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.***
 - B. II Corinthians 5:14-15 – ***For the love of Christ constrains us, because we thus judge that, if one died for all, then we’re all dead; and that He died for all, that they who live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him, who died for them, and rose again.***
2. Surrender to Christ’s lordship.
 - A. Matthew 6:33 – ***But seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.***
 - B. Lk 9:23 – ***He said unto them all, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.***
 - C. Christmas puts the pressure on the lordship of Christ for many Christians, but we can stand in God’s power victorious over temptation as the Scripture promises in I Corinthians 10:13.

III. CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR “GIVING OUT.”

{True Christian giving is not swapping gifts, but rather giving to those in need who have little or nothing to give in return.}

1. We need to give to Christian needs.
 - A. It is important to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.
 - B. It’s good to give to special church needs that honor Christ.
2. We may need to give to some community needs in the name of Jesus.
 - A. You may know some people that will have to do without during the Christmas season.
 - B. I John 3:17-18 – ***But whoever has this world’s good, and sees his brother have need, and shuts up his compassions from him, how dwells the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth.***

Conclusion:

In order to give Christ the desires of His heart, we need to give ourselves and our desires to Him. This was demonstrated by the church in II Corinthians 8:5, ***But they first gave themselves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.***

What do you need to give in order to honor Christ?