

THE Magnitude OF OUR TRUE GIFT



DECEMBER 2021

I'm sure you've seen or heard people making a big deal out of the traditional aspects of celebrating Christmas. They've said, "You guys are pagans if you put a Christmas tree up." Well, we have Christmas trees, and we exchange gifts, too. That's a good thing! It demonstrates an attitude like our Father's. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16, NKJV).* We want to show our love to others, and so we give, as well. What I want to make sure we remain mindful of as we celebrate this year is the *magnitude* of the true gift that God, our Father, made available to us through the person of Jesus Christ and the birth of peace between God and mankind.

Every year, we hear that "Jesus is the reason for the season," and churches all over the world try to focus people's attention on "the true meaning of Christmas." We've heard those phrases so often that sometimes they barely mean anything to us anymore, and we wait until we get to church to pay attention to Jesus. This year, take time each day to ponder the magnitude of the gift that God has made available to us.

From the very beginning, God was clear about why He was giving Jesus to us. An angel told Joseph, *"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).* In Luke's gospel, an angel told shepherds in the field, *"Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people" (Luke 2:10).* So, the angel of the Lord brought news that was going to be good for every person:

Jesus would be born to save His people from their sin. Jesus was brought forth as the solution and salvation for humankind's sin. Wow!

Even the angels understood the magnitude of this gift. *"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!'" (Luke 2:13, 14, NKJV).* Why did they break out in praise? Because they knew that Jesus would tear down the wall of partition between God and mankind. When man sinned in the garden of Eden, enmity arose and limited that relationship. There was no connection or friendship between God and man, and no one, not a person, not even an angel, could reconcile the situation. Jesus was the only one able to do this.

Jesus showed up as a wonderful gift, removed the middle wall of partition between God and mankind, and became the sin sacrifice for us (Romans 5:10). God presented the whole world with the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. And Jesus is, indeed, a gift. He wasn't given to us because of our sweat or hard work; there was no way that we could have earned the gift of this peace offering. *"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32).* In other words, He says, "I gave you the most important thing heaven had to offer, my Son, Jesus Christ. How can you even think that I'll have a problem giving you anything else?"

IT COST HIS SON

A gift is not a gift if it's not free. If we deserve it, then it's a reward, not a gift. If we pay for it, then it's our property, not a gift. However, the gift of being acceptable to God was freely given to us through His Son. Because Jesus came to earth, God can accept us. That's what Christmas is about. That's why the angels were praising God. That's the magnitude of this true gift of Jesus Christ.

This month, whenever the traditional trappings of Christmas seem silly, vain, or stressful, I want you to reach deep inside of your spirit and allow the joy of the Lord to arise and the enemies to be scattered. Meditate on the magnitude of Jesus as our peace offering and exalt our Father in heaven. There is no more partition between us, and that is good news! Taffi and I love you and we pray for you daily. Remember that Jesus is Lord, and "...In all your getting, get understanding" (Proverbs 4:7, NKJV).

Merry Christmas,



Creflo Dollar

P.S. We want to make sure you get this month's free message.

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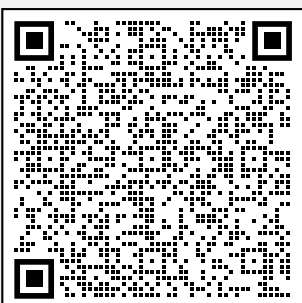
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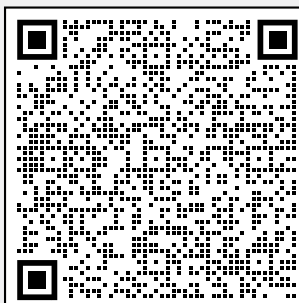
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