

Gifts from God

This is the time of the year when many are buying and exchanging gifts. While there is nothing wrong with being able to do that, it is important to understand that God has given us gifts as well. In fact, God is the greatest giver of gifts! What gifts has God given us?

I. The gift of stuff

- A. This would include many of the things we found wrapped under our tree this morning.
 - 1. Every material thing we possess comes from God.
 - 2. It is that stuff that if we work hard and are good stewards, God wants us to enjoy (1 Timothy 6:17; Ecclesiastes 3:12-13; 5:19-20).
- B. With this gift comes...
 - 1. The responsibility of sharing (1 Timothy 6:17-18).
 - 2. The challenge to not put our trust in it (Matthew 6:33).
 - 3. The need to be thankful (Colossians 4:2).

II. The gift of children

- A. Solomon says they are indeed a blessing (Psalm 127:3-5).
 - 1. There is no price tag you can put on hearing your children say, "I love you" or your child giving you a hug.
 - 2. Since becoming a parent, I have found myself more absorbed in seeing my children's happiness than my own.
- B. With this gift comes...
 - 1. The responsibility of stewardship (Ephesians 6:4).
 - 2. A challenge to understand that we have a responsibility to help give these gifts back to God.

III. The gift of talent

- A. Every Christian has received a gift to serve in the kingdom of God (1 Peter 4:10-11)
 - 1. This gift comes from God and is to be used for the glory of God.
 - 2. Our gifts differ, but they are all equally important (Romans 12:4-8).
- B. With this gift comes...
 - 1. A stewardship.
 - 2. The responsibility of nurturing and developing them.

IV. The gift of Jesus (2 Corinthians 9:15)

- A. The gifts we have received over the past few hours...
 - 1. Will get old and at some point and break down (Matthew 6:19-20).
 - 2. Will eventually lose their luster.
 - 3. Won't bring us long lasting happiness (Ecclesiastes 2:1-11).
- B. But the gift of salvation through Jesus...
 - 1. Is perfect (James 1:17).
 - 2. Is undeserving (Ephesians 2:8-9).
 - 3. Was purchased at the greatest price (1 Peter 1:18-19).
 - 4. Satisfies our greatest need (John 4:13-14).
 - 5. Will always be needed (John 11:25).

Conclusion: Have you received this gift ?