

The Gifts Under God's Christmas Tree

Picture: How the tree should be shaped

John 1:1-16

1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2. He was with God in the beginning.
3. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.
4. In him was life, and that life was the light of men.
5. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.
6. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John.
7. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe.
8. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.
9. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.
10. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.
11. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.
12. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--
13. children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.
14. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
15. John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'"
16. From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 4:10 - Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

I. Three gifts we get because of the first Christmas Gift:

1. The Gift of eternal life

John 1:4 - In him was life...

Rom. 3:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Illus: Bird moving sand

2. The gift of light

John 1:9 - The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

3. The gift of Adoption into His family

John 1:12-13

12. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--

13. children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Romans 8:15-16

15. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

16. The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

4. The gift of the fullness of His grace

John 1:16 - From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.

Grace= God's Riches At Christ's Expense

Grace = The divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life as well as the manner or act of favorable regard, resulting in the heart becoming delightfully calm and happy, pleasurable, cheerful, and well-off.

5. The gift of righteousness

Righteousness = The direct result of being justified or acquitted or cleared of all legal charges against a person so they are free to serve in the Kingdom of

God.

Rom. 5:17 - For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

6. The gift of the Holy Spirit

John 1: 33-34

33. I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'

34. I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God."

Acts 2:38-39

38. Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call."

7. The gift of an example.

Philippians 2:5-8

5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death--even death on a cross!

II. Three things we should do with these gifts:

1. Enjoy them!

2. Give thanks for them!

3. Give them to others!