

## The Gift-Giving Season

It is the gift-giving season, and all of us secretly (or overtly) enjoy receiving presents. No matter what kind they are, the spiritually-minded person realizes that the greatest gift is not physical, but is spiritual; namely, it is salvation. Salvation, like all other blessings, is a gift from God. James 1:17 says, *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."* Ephesians 2:8 adds, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God"*

Man needs salvation because he is a sinner. Sin began in the Garden of Eden when Satan tempted Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:1-8). From that point, the scriptures reveal God's plan to bring man back into a relationship (the definition of "religion") with Him. This plan involves redemption through Christ's blood that was shed when He died on the cross (Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14). Although we have to obey the "good news" of Christ with belief, repentance, confession of Christ, and baptism, none of this could have been possible without the grace of God. Paul wrote in Romans 6:23, *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

During this time of the year, generosity abounds. What we need to be giving to someone is the knowledge of what the Bible says and the requirements of God regarding His great gift of salvation. The Loop 287 Church of Christ would love the opportunity to discuss the greatest gift of all with you. Please be our guest at our one of our assemblies or contact us for further study.

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