

***THE GREATEST GIFT EVER***  
**ROMANS 5:6-11**

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# BACKDROP

- ✘ **Isaiah 53:3-6 (Reflect)**
- ✘ This time of year is generally unlike any other.
- ✘ We spend countless hours and inordinate sums of time trying to come up with memorable and meaningful gift ideas.
- ✘ Estimated that Americans will spend over 1/2 trillion dollars this Christmas season

# THE MOST POPULAR CHRISTMAS GIFTS IN EVERY STATE

BASED ON HOLIDAY SEASON SEARCH INTEREST



|                       |                      |                      |                      |                       |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| AL shoes              | HI gopro             | MI iphone            | NC iphone            | UT wii                |
| AK subscription boxes | ID minecraft         | MN coffee            | ND bluetooth speaker | VT books              |
| AZ skateboard         | IL iphone            | MS bluetooth speaker | OH gift cards        | VA laptop             |
| AR iphone             | IN bluetooth speaker | MO of the month club | OK of the month club | WA kindle             |
| CA skateboard         | IA video games       | MT of the month club | OR camera            | WV hatchimals         |
| CO camera             | KS of the month club | NE legos             | PA gift cards        | WI bluetooth speaker  |
| CT iphone             | KY xbox              | NV iphone            | RI jewelry           | WY subscription boxes |
| DE nba jersey         | LA pajamas           | NH gift basket       | SC shoes             |                       |
| DC iphone             | ME books             | NJ nfl jersey        | SD minecraft         |                       |
| FL perfume            | MD laptop            | NM iphone            | TN iphone            |                       |
| GA iphone             | MA gift basket       | NY headphones        | TX iphone            |                       |

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- ✘ Speaking with an elderly woman at post office recently.
  - ✘ She noticed I had a stack of cards placing them in the mail.
  - ✘ She commented about the cards.
  - ✘ “People have it all wrong about the Season.”
    - + We agreed that it is not about the material things we receive.
    - + *“Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses” Luke 12:15*

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***Greater love has no one than this,  
than to lay down one's life for his  
friends. You are My friends if you  
do whatever I command you.***

**John 15:13-14**

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**MANY SPEND INORDINATE SUMS OF  
TIME & FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

**OTHERS LOSE SLEEP ON WHETHER THE  
RECIPIENT WILL FIND THE GIFT  
ACCEPTABLE OR SUFFICIENT**

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**Be careful using plastic to make huge purchases.**

**January follows December, and the mail carriers usually deliver monthly statements with hefty balances.**

**The Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution outlaws slavery in this country.**

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**But note Solomon's observation –**

***The rich rule over the poor, and the  
borrower is slave to the lender.***

**Proverbs 22:7**



# NO BUYER'S REMORSE WITH THE LORD!

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- ✘ Many times purchasers experience what we call “buyer’s remorse.”
- ✘ Sense of regret after having made a purchase, usually when one feels that s/he paid too much.
- ✘ Not so with the Lord!
- ✘ The price was high, but the Lord experienced no BM!

# THE PROOF!

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- ✘ *I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.*  
**Luke 15:7**
  
- ✘ *Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”* **Luke 15:10**

# REMEMBER, THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE AREN'T THINGS

- ✘ Growing up with a number of brothers and sisters, the Christmas holiday season was always special.
- ✘ We always expressed what we wanted, but often they were simply a wish.
- ✘ We were often reminded that it is the thought that counts, and there are some things \$\$\$ cannot purchase.

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What they taught and instilled in us were way more important than things.

Things –

- Perish with using

- Are lost or stolen

- Become damaged

- Depreciate

- Bring temporary contentment/happiness

- Can be a hindrance to spiritual growth

# RECALL THE STORY OF THE RICH RULER (MARK 10:17-25)

- ✘ The Lord's encounter with this young man begins with a sincere question?
  - + “Good teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?” v. 17
- ✘ Tragically, the story ends with the fellow departing disappointed and sorrowful.
  - + He did not want to part with his material goods. See vv. 21-22
  - + Begs the question – Is the possession of material goods a blessing or a curse?

# SEVERAL MORE OBSERVATIONS

- ✘ Christ told the young man that he knew scriptures (Ten Commandments) See **Mark 10:19**
- ✘ The young man appeared to feel confident and good about himself – “All these things have I kept from my youth.” **Mark 10:20**
- ✘ Sometimes its easy to get it right in some areas, but in other areas we struggle

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## ✘ Important Matters

+ Discipline/temperance – See Proverbs 25:28

+ Perseverance – See Galatians 6:9

+ Work ethic – See Ecclesiastes 9:10

+ Compassion – See Proverbs 19:17

+ Relationship with the Lord

✘ *For what will it profit a man if gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul. Mark 8:37*

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*If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting on the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. Colossians 3:1-2*



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**SO PARENTS AND FRIENDS DON'T GET STRESSED AND BUMMED OUT WHEN CHILDREN AND OTHERS MAKE LISTS THAT INCLUDE THINGS THAT ARE NOT IN THE BUDGET, LIKE –**

- ✘ Sneakers that cost in the \$100s;
- ✘ Game consoles that look like something out of a Sci-Fi movie; or
- ✘ All the latest gadgets with all the bells and whistles (ringing, dinging & singing)

# IF YOU REALLY WANT TO GIVE A MEANINGFUL, LIFE-CHANGING & ENDURING GIFT

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Help someone access the **GREATEST GIFT EVER!**

Material possessions simply have no permanence, and generally bring mere temporary satisfaction.

Sometimes “things” may provide a little salve or ointment to a place in our lives that need major reconstructive surgery!

*And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the counsel and admonition of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4*

# FROM A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

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The greatest gift my grandparents and parents ever gave me was an introduction to the LORD and demanding a deep reverence for Him while under their roof.

Learning early in life –

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*

**John 3:16**

# THE WISE MAN YET COUNSELS

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*My son, do not forget my law, but let your hearts keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you. Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man. Proverbs 3:1-4*

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**PLEASE REMEMBER & GLORY IN THE  
GREATEST GIFT EVER, AS YOU ENJOY  
FAMILY & FRIENDS.**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

# LORD'S INVITATION EXTENDED TO ALL

## ✦ Be added to the Lord's body

Hear the gospel (**Acts 15:7, Romans 10:17**)

Believe (**Hebrews 11:6, Acts 15:7**)

Repent (**Acts 2:38**)

Confess (**Acts 8:36, Romans 10:10**)

Be baptized for the remission of sin (**Acts 2:38**) or

# LORD'S INVITATION (CONT'D)

- ✘ Be reconciled unto the Lord (I John 1:8-9); or
- ✘ Desire prayer. (James 5:16).

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***May GOD richly bless you!***