

## **GOD THE GOOD GIFT GIVER** **(Romans 5:15-17)**

### **I. God gave the Garden of Eden.**

- A. Could you imagine a better gift than this, physically speaking?
- B. God gave Adam and Eve the most beautiful place on earth in which to live.
  - 1. Their only charge was to “dress and keep it” (Genesis 2:15).
  - 2. It had all their food needs met and it held the “Tree of Life” for them to stay ageless.
- C. Everything that was needed for these two was given to them.
- D. Sadly, they misused the gift given them.
  - 1. They sinned against God and lost the right to remain in the Garden.
  - 2. This gift was given them by God but because it was abused it was taken from them.

### **II. God gave the Promised Land.**

- A. God’s people, the Hebrews, had been suffering under Egyptian bondage for a long time.
- B. God, true to His word, did not leave them in that state, but freed them from their oppression through the leadership of Moses and the ten plagues sent against Egypt.
- C. Long ago, God had promised to Abraham that his seed would have a wonderful land (Genesis 12:1-3; 15:18).
- D. The children of Abraham sinned in the wilderness and had to wander in it for forty years before making it to the Promised Land.
  - 1. This was a land that was beautiful and fruitful (Numbers 13:23; Exodus 3:8).
  - 2. Everything they needed as a people was in this land.
- E. Once there, God helped them cast out the Canaanites that were there as long as the people were willing to fight.
- F. It was given to them and they enjoyed it and prospered in it.
- G. Sadly, they too misused their gift from God.
  - 1. They used the wood and precious metals of the land to make idols (Isaiah 44:14-15).
  - 2. They used the rocks of the land to make altars on which they offered sacrifices, including their own children, to idols (2 Kings 16:2-4).
- H. God warned them before they ever entered the land that if they did these things they would lose this great gift (Deuteronomy 28:36).
  - 1. The prophets came to them to warn them about what would happen if they continued in their idolatry.
  - 2. Isaiah and Jeremiah are full of pleas to give up this sin.
- I. Because of their abuse of the land and misuse of God’s gift, the Israelites were sent into captivity and lost this gift from God.

### **III. God gave His Son.**

- A. In back of everything we read in the Old Testament, there was a plan in

- place to bring the Son of God to earth to be given as a gift for all mankind.
- B. John 3:16 tells us very eloquently about why God gave Jesus, because of His love for us, and the purpose for giving Jesus, so we would not have to die eternally.
- C. As Paul put it, "Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15).
- D. God loved mankind so much that He was willing to give His Son in our stead.
  1. He paid the ransom for our sins (1 Timothy 2:6).
  2. You and I could not get ourselves out of sin on our own.
  3. We needed someone to pay the price and this is exactly what Jesus did (Mark 10:45).
- E. Paul tells us in Romans 5:15-17 that Jesus was a free gift.
  1. There were no strings attached to Jesus.
  2. He was given freely by God for the sins of the world.
- F. This gift from God is different from the first two gifts we noticed in that it cannot be taken back.
- G. Adam and Eve abused the Garden and the Jews abused the Promised Land and they lost that which had been given them.
- H. Jesus will always be there for all men and His work on the cross will never be taken from men until the earth is no more.

#### **IV. God gave eternal life.**

- A. Romans 6:23.
- B. To those who come to Christ is offered the gift of eternal life.
  1. Jesus was offered for all men (John 3:16).
  2. God wants all men to be saved (1 Timothy 2:3-4).
- C. Eternal life can be had in promise by all.
  1. John 6:54.
  2. It is our hope (Titus 1:2).
- D. This is a gift given now that we receive later, but it is just as if we have it in our possession.
  1. 1 John 5:11-13.
  2. Notice that "hath" is in the past tense in verse 11.
  3. It is ours as if we held it in our hands.
- E. God wants to give this gift to all men but it comes through Christ.
- F. Only those who are in Christ shall receive eternal life.
- G. However, this gift, like the first two mentioned, can be lost through abuse and misuse.
  1. We must take care to "lay hold on eternal life" (1 Timothy 6:12).
  2. If we possess it by being in Christ, but leave Jesus, we lose the gift of eternal life.
  3. The Galatians were told that they had fallen from grace if they had left the Lord (Galatians 5:4).
- H. We must do all we can to remain in Christ.
  1. Paul told Timothy that deacons who do well have great boldness in the faith "which is in Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 3:13).

2. To be in Christ, one must be in the faith.
  3. We must examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5).
  4. We must stand fast in the faith (1 Corinthians 16:13).
  5. We must be sound in the faith (Titus 3:15).
  6. We must continue in the faith (Acts 14:22).
- I. We can lose this great gift if we abuse the grace of God and misuse the wonderful temporal gifts God has given us.