

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

Luke 2:8-20

INTRODUCTION: Remember the excitement of opening Christmas presents when you were very young. You were so excited to see what you got you just ripped the wrapping paper off the present to see what it was hiding. The truth is the greatest Christmas present was not wrapped in paper but in swaddling clothes. Isaiah 9:6-7; Psalm 16:11; Luke 2:20. There are three great gifts our Lord is offering anyone that we will look into today.

I. THE JOY OF HAVING A SAVIOR!

The first gift ever given on Christmas was the gift of God's Son our Savior Jesus Christ: Luke 2:8-11. Why were the shepherds so excited about a Savior being born? Because they knew there need: Romans 3:23; Romans 6:24; John 3:16. Maybe you think your sin is too great for the Lord to forgive you: 1 Timothy 1:15-16. Our Lord's first sermon why He came to this earth: Luke 4:16-21. What so many miss is that in order for a gift to be of any value to the one it is given to it must be received: John 1:12-13.

II. THE JOY OF GOD'S PEACE IN OUR HEARTS!

We have not only the gift of a Savior but also the gift of God's peace in our hearts. Luke 2:13-14. Jesus is called the "Prince of Peace." Yet so many of those who say they have trusted Jesus as their Savior do not have His peace in their hearts. 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 John 4:18; Hebrews 10:38-39. Matthew 1:23. If our Lord is always with us do we need to fear anyone or anything? The way the world tries to build and keep peace is like a house of cards. Our God offers the gift of supernatural peace: Philippians 4:6-7; Isaiah 26:3-4.

III. THE JOY OF GOD'S FAITH IN OUR HEARTS!

Oh the joy that can be ours when we receive the gift of God's faith into our hearts and stepping out in that faith to walk with our God! Luke 2:15-18. Faith is simply believing the Word of God and stepping out in that faith to obey the Lord! Romans 10:17. We need to be like those shepherds and step out in our faith in obedience to God's Word. Ephesians 2:8-10; Hebrews 11:1-6; Matthew 28:18-20. Have you obeyed the Lord's command to be baptized and to disciple others? When God puts a call on your life obey quickly or the time may pass and you will have missed the opportunity. Stepping out in faith always brings great joy to those who choose to live by faith. Today we all have three gifts given to us by the Lord through our faith in Jesus Christ that no one else could ever give us. We have the gift of a Savior. We have the gift of God's peace in our hearts. We have the gift of God's faith in our hearts. How many of these gifts have you opened? How many are yours right now?