

THE CHRISTMAS GIFT

Colossians 1:15-22

INTRODUCTION: We used to open one gift under the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve. But early on Christmas morning we would check under the Christmas tree to see what Santa had brought us. That gift was the best gift of all the gifts. In the little village of Bethlehem God gave His preeminent gift to mankind: Micah 5:2.

I. JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S DELIVERING GIFT TO MANKIND!

Colossians 1:13: the word "delivered" in this verse speaks of "rescuing someone from danger." God delivered us from the kingdom of darkness. Matthew 8:12; 1 John 2:11. So "darkness" speaks of evil, being a part of Satan's domain, being without God. Matthew 12:30. Being "in the light" speaks of with God and for God: John 8:12; 1 John 1:5. That is what makes Jesus Christ God's preeminent gift: the gift that stands above all other gifts.

II. JESUS CHRIST IS THE REDEEMING GIFT TO MANKIND!

Colossians 1:13-14: One of the greatest words found in the Scriptures is "redeem." Romans 3:24. Jesus Christ "redeemed us" "bought us back" through His own blood. Jesus paid the price to buy us off the slave market of sin: Revelation 5:9; Hebrews 9:22. Through the shed blood of Jesus Christ we have our sins forgiven: Colossians 1:14. Redemption and forgiveness always go together: Ephesians 1:7. "Forgiveness" means "to send away" or "to cancel a debt."

III. JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S REVEALING GIFT TO MANKIND!

Colossians 1:15: Jesus is the image of the invisible God! The word image means "the exact representation." Jesus is God in human flesh! Jesus is fully man but also fully God: Colossians 1:19; John 14:9. We see God, know God and approach God by seeing Jesus, knowing Jesus and approaching Jesus: Matthew 11:27; John 14:6. A person may believe in God but if they have not come to God through faith in Jesus Christ, their god is an idol. Jesus is the image of God, always has been and always will be: John 1:18. The true God and Jesus stand as One! Acts 4:12; Colossians 1:18. You can put it down: Jesus is the preeminent Gift of Christmas! Of all the gifts God has given to mankind Jesus stands above them all! James 1:17.

IV. JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S CREATING GIFT TO MANKIND!

Colossians 1:15 is wrongly interpreted by many cults to say Jesus was a created being. All one need do is read the next verse to see that is not the meaning here: Colossians 1:16. Then Colossians 1:17 tells us Jesus was in existence before anything was created. Colossians 1:17; Psalm 89:27. To be "the firstborn of every creature" emphasizes the pre-existence and uniqueness of Jesus Christ. Colossians 1:16; John 1:1-3. All things were created by Him and for Him. Do you know that includes you? We are not accidents. You were put here by divine design!

V. JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S SUSTAINING GIFT TO MANKIND!

Colossians 1:17: God's creation did not come about by an accident and it is not held together by accident. Our Lord Jesus is the "glue" that holds everything together!

VI. JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S RECONCILING GIFT TO MANKIND!

Colossians 1:19-22; Romans 5:10-11; 2 Corinthians 5:18. Our God took the initiative to reconcile man to God. Sin separated us from God. Jesus Christ reconciled us to God making Jesus God's preeminent gift of Christmas: John 3:16-21.