

My Thoughts For Sunday, 28 December 2014

“The Gift That Keeps On Taking”

Did you get that special gift “that gift that keeps on taking” this Christmas? No? Are you sure you looked everywhere for it? Did you search your Christmas stocking and on all the branches of the tree? I hope you didn't throw it out with the wrapping paper!

You don't know what gift I am talking about? No, it was not the toaster oven you got from your husband or the ties and socks you got from your children. And it certainly was not that new car you all got for a family gift. Granted, these were all needed and appreciated but I am talking about that spectacular gift we all received that continues to “keep on taking.”

It was sent special delivery in plenty of time to arrive for this very special day, Christmas. Do you get the clue when I say it is “the gift that keeps on taking?” I know this sounds a bit backward but it is so very true. This gift, if you found it and took the time to open it and truly evaluate it would make clear what I am saying. John the Baptist mentioned this gift two thousand years ago. Let's look at his statement to the crowds as recorded in the gospel of John the apostle. [John 1:29](#) (NIV2011) “*The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who **takes away** the sin of the world!”*”

Yes, you guessed it. I was speaking of the newborn baby Jesus of whom we are told came into the world to **take away** our sins. That's right. He came to TAKE AWAY our sins. If we honestly look at ourselves we see that we are heavy laden with sins. Have you been able to live up to the demands of the Ten Commandments? I know I haven't. No, I have never murdered anyone, I have never stolen large amounts of money or cars, but I do remember picking up and pocketing little things that did not belong to me (a sin). That is stealing, just as bad as large things. Have you ever longed to have the new car or the new cabin cruiser your neighbor just purchased? That is coveting (a sin). Think real hard and honestly and I am sure you can come up with a list of your own sins that keep on plaguing you.

This Jesus, who came down from His heavenly realm to be a human baby, did so to live a life without sin to redeem us from our sins. Let's take a look at what the Psalmist wrote about this Jesus many long years before He was ever born [Psalms 103:12](#) (NIV2011) “*As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us”*”

Do you have any idea just how far the east is from the west? Spend some of your quiet time and speculate on this. Trust me, they never even come close.

As you think about this special gift that “keeps on taking” away those sins that continue to pester you and tempt you to try it “just one more time”, remember He has promised that “*whosoever believes in Him shall have everlasting life.*” [John 3:16](#). It is not too late to open that gift and begin to let Him take away all those things that continue to bring you down.

As we are about to enter another new year, why don't we make it a year to let Him take away all those sins, that heavy load of regrets, those “if only I had done this”, those many sad memories of the many mistakes we might have made that caused grief for someone else or ourselves. Remember, He is going to continue to be there for you and take away all those things that make you worthy only of death. [Romans 6:23](#) (NIV2011) “*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”

Let's all make 2015 the year we re-open and re-evaluate that wonderful gift that was sent from God to be our Savior. Let Him take away all the hurt, pain and suffering we continue to cause ourselves through sin and bad decisions. Enjoy with me “**the gift that keeps on taking.**”