

Things I Want To Give MYSELF For Christmas

Introduction:

- A. We all know the feeling. Every parent has been there. Mom was walking through Walmart with her son. As they went through the toy aisle, mom looked away for a second and the little boy as cunningly as he could lifted a toy over into the shopping cart. Mom turned just in time to see it fall in and said, "What are you doing? You know Christmas is almost here. We can't buy that today." To which the little boy replied, "But mom, I want to get ME this for Christmas."
- B. We are all familiar with that scene in one form or another. As we think about Christmas, perhaps there are some things I want to give myself for Christmas; not physical, but spiritual.
- C. Consider the following

I. I Want To Give Myself A Greater Faith In The Provisions Of God

- A. God provides all our needs - Phil. 4:19

Philippians 4:19 - And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

- B. We shouldn't think that the Philippians were wealthy benefactors of Paul who could easily spare the money
 - 1. As Paul described them in 2 Corinthians 8, it is plain that their giving was sacrificial
 - 2. This promise meant something to them
- C. The promise is to supply ALL your need
 - 1. But it is all you NEED
 - 2. Not a promise to go beyond needs
- D. In this, the promise is both broad and yet restricted

II. I Want To Give Myself A Greater Hope In The Promises Of God

- A. God is faithful and true in everything that He says and does
 - 1. You can count on the promises of God in the Bible to be absolutely trustworthy
- B. Christians draw great hope from the words of the well-known song "Standing on the Promises of God" - Cf. 2 Pet. 1:4; Heb. 6:12; 10:23

2 Peter 1:4 - For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

Hebrews 6:12 - so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Hebrews 10:23 - Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

- C. Romans 4:19-21

Romans 4:19-21 - Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.

- 1. The promises of God don't depend on our abilities, but God's
 - a. Abraham was 100; Sarah 90 when Isaac was born

- b. They themselves had ZERO ability to bear children
2. The key was Abraham's confidence that GOD had power to DO what He had PROMISED.

III. *I Want To Give Myself A Greater Love For The Person Of God*

- A. The strongest message in the Bible is God's love in redeeming man through Jesus Christ
 1. Everything revolves around God's love
 2. God, who created the universe by His Word, is the source of love, which is love in its truest, purest and perfect form

B. Thus, we love because He first loved us - 1 Jn 4:19

1 John 4:19 - We love, because He first loved us.

C. Let us grasp how wide and long and high and deep the love of God is

1. God's love endures forever - Psa 118:1

Psalms 118:1 - Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

2. The earth is filled with God's love - Psa 119:64

Psalms 119:64 - The earth is full of Your lovingkindness, O LORD; Teach me Your statutes.

3. His love is even better than life - Psa 63:3

Psalms 63:3 - Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips will praise You.

4. His love surpasses knowledge - Eph 3:18; Cf Rom 8:38-39

Ephesians 3:18 - may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

Romans 8:38-39 - For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Conclusion:

- A. At this time of the year, people will go into debt to give gifts to those they love. And while we all think of Christmas as a time of giving, we should think of what will last rather than things which will be discarded within a few days.
- B. Jesus died on the cross as a gift to us. Let us honor that gift by drawing closer to God.