

BRIGHT STAR COMMUNITY CHURCH

A STAR in the West Leading People to CHRIST

The greatest gift ever ginen

2 Corinthians 9:15:

“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”



Jesus
THE GREATEST GIFT



The greatest gift ever given

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The greatest gift ever given

God came near to us in the person of His Son. The baby in Mary's womb is Immanuel, God incarnate, born to be with us. He revealed His plan to Mary and she responded with, "May it be to me as you have said" (Luke 1:38). Joseph struggled to figure out his part in God's drama, but eventually "...did what the Lord had commanded Him and took Mary home as his wife" (Matthew 1:24). Christmas always comes with a choice. Mary and Joseph chose to respond and receive the greatest gift of all time.

The greatest gift ever given

Max Lucado, wrote this: “That particular moment was like none other. For through that segment of time a spectacular thing occurred. God became a man. While the creatures of earth walked unaware, divinity arrived. Heaven opened herself up and placed her most precious one in a human womb. The omnipotent, in one instant, made Himself breakable. He, who had been a spirit, now was pierce-able. He who was larger than the universe became an embryo.

The greatest gift ever given

And He who sustains the world with a word, chose to be dependent upon the nourishment of a young girl. God as a fetus. Holiness sleeping in a womb. The creator of life being created. God was given eyebrows, elbows, two kidneys and a spleen. He stretched against the walls and floated in the amniotic fluids of His mother. God had come near.”

The greatest gift ever given

**The greatest present is
the presence of Christ.
This involves three
things.**

The greatest gift ever given

1. The gift is Jesus Christ Himself. With all the other trappings of the season, we must never forget the Christ of Christmas. While it's become a cliché, Jesus is the reason for the season.

John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son...”

John 4:10: “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

The greatest gift ever given

Romans 5:15: “For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!”

The greatest gift ever given

In two days, many gifts will be given, but it would be foolish for us to assume that they will all be given out of pure love.

- Some will give because they feel obligated to give a gift.
- Some will give in order to impress somebody else.
- Some will give in order to be recognized.
- Some will give because they don't want to be embarrassed.
- Some will give in hopes of getting back something better.

The greatest gift ever given

What am I saying?

We don't always give with 100% pure motives, do we? Yet God the Father gave His Son to this world out of pure love.

Because He loved us.

The greatest gift ever given

2. This gift has tremendous value.

Although there is truly nothing more desirable than knowing Christ, many people just can't see it. Their eyes haven't been opened. They look into the manger, and they don't see a king. They don't see the Savior of the World. They don't see "the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace..."

The greatest gift ever given

All they can see is an ordinary human being. And so, they pass by the child in the manger and instead seek after the presents. Which do you value more, the toys and trinkets of this life that will all eventually crumble into dust, or a relationship with Jesus Christ that will last forever?

The greatest gift ever given

**Three types of people
close themselves off from
the Christ of Christmas:**

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The proud. In Luke 1:51, we read, “He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; He has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.” Imagine if you will, the proud who have their arms folded across their chests and their hearts closed to anything that God wants to give them.

The greatest gift ever given

The powerful. There are others who consider themselves too self-sufficient to need a Savior. In verse 52, Mary sang, “He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.” The powerful raise their hands in a fist of independence, refusing to surrender.

The greatest gift ever given

The pacified. This third group has a difficult time receiving the gift of God because they are too comfortable to need Him. Mary's song continues in verse 53: "He has filled the hungry with good things, but has sent the rich away empty."

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3. This gift must be received.

My Brothers and Sisters, you can only receive God's love when you reach out to Him with arms and hands open wide. While this seems easy to understand, there are at least two ways some of us get sidetracked.

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We can't earn this gift.

No matter how many times we may hear that the gift of salvation is free, some of us continue to try to perform or earn our way to heaven. Remember, if you have to somehow earn something, it's not a gift; it's a wage. The Bible says that the only thing we can earn as a result of our efforts is death. Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death..." I'm thankful that this verse doesn't end there.

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Our salary may be separation from God, “... but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 is a wonderful passage that God can use to release us from the tyranny of trying to trot on the treadmill of good works: “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast.”

The greatest gift ever given

We can't buy this gift.

Not only can we never earn God's gift, we can't buy it either. Salvation is not for sale because the price has already been paid.

The greatest gift ever given

To “receive” means to welcome a visitor into your home. To “receive” Christ means to welcome him as an honored guest and to have him make your heart his home.

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John 1:13 teaches us that salvation does not run automatically from one generation to another: “Children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.” You aren’t a Christian just because your parents are. And you won’t get brownie points with God just because you come from a good family and have a fine education. You can’t save yourself by human effort so don’t bother trying. The heart of the gospel is in the short phrase “born of God.” Salvation is of the Lord and it’s a free gift.

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***In John 1:14, we see that God's final word was Jesus: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."**

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A Gift With Your Name On It

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