

WHAT GIFT TO GIVE GOD

by Anthony Scherffius

During this holiday season of giving, the concept of offering up a gift to loved ones and friends is on the minds of many. I know a famous tradition that most families follow is making a list of things you would want for the holidays. Maybe there are some family members or friends that are hard to shop for. Maybe they do not give you a list and you have to figure it out, and you always wonder, "Are they going to like it?" It is easier to find gifts for those you truly love and care for because you know them inside and out.

Have you ever wondered, "What would God like as a gift?" Or "What is on God's list of desired gifts?" We can easily figure out the answer to both of those if we just do two things: 1.) Intimately know Him by getting to know Him inside and out, and 2.) find His list which He has put together for us. It should not be hard thing to figure out, for He has revealed unto us exactly what He wants.

1.) Give Our Talents (Matthew 25:14-18)—God has so generously given us many things including those talents. We are blessed with abilities and skills that which we can build upon and multiply. God expects us to double our talents and return them back to Him one day. In doubling our talents and skills which He has given us, we glorify Him and use, not squander our talents.

2.) Give Our Time (Ephesians 5:15-16)—One thing that everyone desires is more time. The reason for this is because it is invaluable; it is so precious and so easily abused. Paul talks about the importance of using your time wisely: "Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil." What is interesting about this gift being given to God is that He is not bound by time. Time really means nothing to God so why would He want us to give Him ours? It is because time is another thing made by God Himself, and therefore He knows how it should be used. He does not want us to squander it; instead He wants us to utilize it in the best way possible—for Him. And this is really for our benefit, for if we use our time for Him, He will reward us for our good stewardship.

3.) Give Our Heart, Mind, Soul, And Strength (Mark 12:30)—This one is a necessity if we want to please God. What is it that God wants from us? Truly, God wants *us*. He is a jealous God, a God that wants what is His and that is exactly what we are. God created us in His image after all (Genesis 1:26ff). Therefore, we must give ourselves back to Him and present ourselves in a way which is well-pleasing in His sight (pure, undefiled, and unspotted by the world - James 1:27).

4.) Give Our Best (Colossians 3:23-24)—And lastly, what God desires from us is our best. We can give talents, time, and even our very selves

to God. Whoever, some will only give bits and pieces of these things. People hear how "expensive" God's taste is in gifts, so they try to find these things "on clearance." They will only give part of their talents, a little bit of their time, a portion of their heart, mind, soul, and strength, and just a fragment of their best because they need those things as well.

God is very clear on what He wants, and He deserves these things. We should have the attitude Paul encourages the Corinthians to have in 2 Corinthians 8 and 9. In chapter 8 Paul tells the church at Corinth to try and out-give God. And in chapter 9 He gives the reason why: "for God has given everything to you." Let us realize that it is more of a blessings to give than to receive (Acts 2:35).

Remember in Prayer

Chandler Osborne had an accident at work and broke his ankle.

Charlotte Whitt had a follow-up appointment on 12/8. She is hopeful her pain can be managed soon.

Melva McManus had surgery for a broken kneecap. She is recuperating at home.

Archie Underwood is not feeling well.

Remember also

Melva McManus,
Archie & Nancy Underwood,
Joy Tull, Margrie Holloway,
Debbie Perkins, Judy Mitchell,
Pat & Kelly Beck,
Jeff Elam, Kevin Burnett,
Diane Ewing, Carey Samford,
Samuel & Diana Ramirez,
Steven Coats, Steve McClellan

IMPORTANT DATES

December 14- Nursing Home Worship Svc./2:00
December 21- Elder/Deacon Mtg./4:00
December 24- Singing/Devotional
December 31- Singing Night/End of Quarter



**Ladies Mug Exchange
&
Hot Chocolate Bar
December 13th
10:00 a.m.
Jennifer Graham's Home**

Please bring your favorite brunch food to share with the group!



**Please help welcome
Karon Mason to our family!**

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