

# What's Under the Tree?

## Advent Week 1

Pastor Bud Rager, 11-27-16

This is the season of excitement and expectation...the season of searching and decision. We search for the gift....that one perfect gift that will bring a smile to a child's face, a tear to a mother's eye and smile and nod from a grandparent who thought they've received it all....

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. **James 1:17**

### Points

1. There is only place to shop for good and perfect gifts.
2. God like his gifts, are timeless and unchanging.
3. God's gift was never meant to be kept it's to be given away.

1. There is only place to shop for good and perfect gifts.

As we look to this season we see that our Lord in heaven gave the most perfect and amazing gift to ever be conceived....His Son

[Matthew 1:18-25](#)

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

"She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN

**SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US." And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.**

**Christ born in the flesh to a mother out of wedlock**

**To a step father who was obedient enough to face the scandal and ridicule.... purely based on his faith.**

**We see that Jesus.... this perfect gift the purest of the pure is born into the most imperfect of situations. Christ is God's pure and perfect gift to us ....the most undeserving of all recipients.**

**This perfect of all gifts Christ, was born in Bethlehem...an obscure place, a town in a world that had no room for Him: the perfect gift...the King of kings, born in a stable surrounded by His creation and worshiped by the lowest of the low...Shepard's**

**2. God like his gifts, are timeless and unchanging.**

**Christ was and is meant to be gift to all who would receive Him...Christ is a gift that would change the life of all who accepted Him..**

**Not just as He walked the earth in His ministry but still today and beyond tomorrow.**

**Christ is the same always...**Hebrews 13:8****

**<sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

**Christ was and is the perfect of all gift.... Nothing about His character or purpose has ever been altered or changed. His mission was to save lives to give eternal hope and salvation that could not be obtained through human endeavor. By this same token Christ mission to today is to save lives, to give eternal hope and salvation that cannot be obtained by us in our endeavors today.**

**Guess what tomorrow Christ's mission is the same....**

**He is unchanging...with no variations.....there is no shadow...**

**God's good and perfect gift is the light of the world**

## **John 18:12**

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, **"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."**

With Christ there is no shadow cast by his light...it surrounds us....

### **Ex....flashlight vs a lantern story**

This is why the gift of Christ...the gift of Gods perfect love is unchanging and without variation or shadow.....

3. God's gift was never meant to be kept it's to be given away.

We all have that box or shelve that place set aside for the gifts...the gifts that well really weren't all the good and perfect....come on you know the re-gift....gifts. Those we set aside for that last minute need.

The most amazing thing about the perfect gift... the gift that can't be bought or sold....can't be wrapped with a ribbon or bow.... The most amazing thing about this gift is that we receive it....so we can re-gift it.

The very nature of the gift of Christ is that for as much as it is our good and perfect gift from the Lord..... It was never meant to be put on the shelf or locked away...

The gift...our gift of Christ is meant to be re-gifted over and over again.

The beauty of this re-gifting is that every time we give it away we receive the gift in a renewed value in a more amazing way and with every time we give it....we receive it and find that it is even more perfect as if that was even possible....

I guess this is the very reason why God's gift of His love and His Son are truly good and perfect gifts...

Closing thoughts....

As we wait expectantly for all the joy and hope of this Advent Season....

Let us prepare to re-gift the perfect gift of God's love and the love of His Son Jesus.

In Acts 20:35, Paul tells us that Christ said that **'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'**... we don't find anywhere in scripture where Christ said this....but if anyone was to fully understand this thought it would be Paul.

This season Give the gift of Christ....you will be blessed....