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A Gift Pt 1 Our motive for giving and receiving gifts

This is our first study on the word “gift” in the scriptures. There are 104 occurrences of the word in Holy scripture. In this teaching we establish three points – (i) To whom we give gifts, and why, shows our heart, (ii) we establish the wicked purposes in an evil man in giving a gift, and (iii) we establish the wise man’s purpose in giving a gift.

It is from our search of the scriptures that we establish our points–

1. To whom we give gifts and why– shows our heart

Judah gave gifts to the nations they played the harlot with, giving gifts to their lovers “And say, Thus saith the Lord God unto Jerusalem...[28] Thou hast played the whore also with the Assyrians, because thou wast unsatiable; yea, thou hast played the harlot with them, and yet couldest not be satisfied. [33] They give gifts to all whores: but thou givest thy gifts to all thy lovers...” (Ez.16:3, 28, 33).

2. We establish the wicked man’s purpose in giving gifts

A wicked man taketh a gift out of the bosom to pervert judgment

“A wicked man taketh a gift out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment” (Prov 17:23).

3. We establish the purpose of a wise man’s gifts

At the birth of Jesus the wise men worshipped and give Him gifts – to bless
Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, [9] When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. [11] And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh” (Matt.2:1, 9, 11).

Illustration

Our company buy (\$60 and \$100) gift boxes for our top customers. Some tell us before hand that they are unable to receive, other receive then feel uncomfortable so seek to return and other receive the gift. I have felt uncomfortable this year with the idea because our motivation is ultimately to gain their “favour” to receive more business, whilst extending our appreciation.

Questions of the scriptures

i) When is a gift not to be received? ii) When is a gift to be received?

Answers from the scriptures

i) A gift is not good to be received when the giver has an evil heart– where the purpose is to blind the eyes of the recipients – like the Pharisee’s did, or those in Israel who sought to make the commandment of God of none effect by their gift. When you feel that the heart is not right, that is– giving the gift, or receiving it will **not** give glory to God, then you can decline it as Daniel did (Dan 5:17).

ii) It is good to receive a gift that is given from the heart that seeks to bless another. “I have shewed you all things...to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

The only perfectly pure heart is the Lord, therefore next week we will look at His gift to humanity – “the unspeakable gift”, given in pure love, as a sacrifice for the sin of the world, at Christ’s expense. Now that is a motive worthy of our following! Amen!

What is a gift?

According to the scriptures –

A gift is as a precious stone in the eyes of him that hath it

Prov.17:8 A gift [is as] a precious stone in the eyes of him that hath it:
whithersoever it turneth, it prospereth.

Gifts are presents

Ps.72:10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of
Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.

A gift is a reward

Dan.2: 6 But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of
me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the
interpretation thereof.

A gift in secret pacifies anger

Prov 21:14 A gift in secret pacifieth anger: and a reward in the bosom strong wrath.

A gift intreats favour

Pss 45:12 And the daughter of Tyre [shall be there] with a gift; [even] the rich
among the people shall intreat thy favour.