

The Promised Gift of God

Here is Good News! When you work, you deserve wages. The payment that you deserve is from the work you do. *You have earned your pay.* For example, when you go to work, you get a paycheck only after you have done your work. A gift is different. A gift is given, not earned. You do no work to receive a gift, but you were given a gift freely *without doing any thing*. For instance, on your birthday, someone might give you a gift. It's not because you deserve it; nor that you have earned it by doing something. The gift is freely given. You do not pay for a gift in any way. If you receive a bonus by working hard, you can boast about it. But if someone gives you a free gift, you cannot boast about it. But you might say, 'they gave me a gift because I am so special!' But what if the same gift was given to everyone regardless of their status? In the same way, **God gave a free gift to every one**. And it wasn't because we deserved it, but because we least deserved it. "**God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Jesus Christ died for us.**" It was not on our birthday when we received this gift; but, on the day we deserved it least. "**You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.**" *How is one Man's death a gift to us?* God's justice demands sin be punished; but in His grace, **Jesus died on a cross in our place.** "**He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**"

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Jesus rebuked many about their sin, but He put on that sin on the cross, dying in His body with it upon Him: *He put on what He despised for those that He loved.* **He has forgiven you.** Which sins has He forgiven? All of them. The ones in the past, present, and future. That means sin is powerless over us. The power sin has is in punishment, but Jesus died for us, taking our punishment. We are in right standing with God through Jesus Christ. “**He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; He has taken it away, nailing it to the cross, having disarmed the spiritual powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.**” Are we then guilty because our sin killed Jesus, an innocent Man? The Scriptures say, “**And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.**” And what’s more? **Jesus rose from the dead.** He lives forever. Therefore, we have no guilt and sin has no power over us — so why should we submit to its demands? Do we like to be ruled by powerless things? We are slaves to our sin, but *Jesus set us free to be free.* Because our God is powerful and loved us, putting on our sin, we put off our sin and put on Christ like new clothes. “**We love because Christ first loved us.**” Not everybody has received this gift because it’s received by faith and not everybody has believed. Is our repentance then means to our salvation? No. But it shows that we have believed the message God has given about His Son. “**For it’s by grace you have been saved — not by works, so no one can boast.**”

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