The Gift of God
Elder R.M. Piña Sr.

The Christmas Story

For thousands of years they tried to live sinless life, yet in vain,
Perfection alluded them, too strong was sin’s strain,
They killed sheep, bullocks, and turtledoves, all as a sacrifice,
But nothing that they found to kill would ever really suffice,
Once a year the high priest went in to the Holy of Holies, alone,
Wishing that for all the people, the sins God would atone,
But this practice at best, could provide a temporary solution,
This caused my God in heaven to make an awesome resolution,
He came to a lady named Mary, who was a Nazarene,
Through her submission to God, His Son would come on the scene,
He would be born in Bethlehem, to fulfill prophecy,
The star would shine brightly, for the three kings to see,
We celebrate his birth on Christmas, but his story doesn’t end there,
God’s Son, yes, became our ultimate sacrifice,
Behold the Lamb of God, who would pay the ultimate price,
His blood came streaming down, that tree on Calvary,
For the remission of sins, for the salvation of you and me,
They took Him down and buried Him in someone’s else tomb,
satan thought he had us, but this death would be his doom,
Three nights and three days would have to pass by,
He’s alive, He’s not there, would be the ladies’ cry,
For God rose Him up from the dead, with all power in His hand,
So that I could be delivered from sin, and join the Christian band,
So when you open up your gifts, on the upcoming Christmas day,
Take time to tell your kids the true meaning, and please take time to pray.

-- Ricardo Piña

It’s Christmas time and we liken Christmas in America to:
• Santa Claus
• Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer
• Ebenezer Scrooge
• The Grinch
• We need to remember, however, that the reason for the season is Jesus!

• $474.00 (Average American shopper)
• we become “Gift Crazy”
• I want to tell you about a gift this morning that will change your life and living.
  o This gift is not temporary
  o It won’t fade
  o It won’t go out of style
  o The color won’t run
  o This is Gift is eternal
  o It is “The Gift of God”

(John 3:16 KJV) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that
whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
There are six observations I want to make in this text. This is what I see in the Gift of
God:
The Giver (God)

- Story of my mother giving

The Grace (So Loved)

- On New Year’s Day, 1983, the Louisiana State Tigers played the Nebraska Cornhuskers in the Orange Bowl. Jerry Stovall, the LSU coach, had been chosen Southeast Conference Coach of the Year in guiding his Tigers to an 8–3–1 record in 1982. In December or 1983, some 11 months later, the LSU Board of Supervisors ignored widespread fan and alumni protest and fired him. Less than a year earlier they had given him a bonus—now they gave him the sack.
  - Aren’t you glad that God’s motivation is not our performance? It’s a good thing that God does not look at our stats.
  - We have defined Grace to be unmerited favor. We did not deserve what God did and what God gave, but he did it, because He loved us.
  - (Rom 5:8 KJV) But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
  - He gave us this gift, even while we were:
    - Lying on Him
    - Cursing Him to His face
    - Cheating on our wives and husbands
    - Stealing
    - Clubbing
    - Commuting fornication
  - He did not give us this gift because we did soothing good. He gave us this gift, even while we were doing some of everything bad.
  - The Giver is God and the Grace is Love!

The Gift (Jesus)

- Other gifts come and go, but this is a gift that keeps on giving.
- This gift was God’s only begotten Son
  - The Greek says, homogene. Homo for singular or unique and gene for genus or gene, meaning identifying characteristic or DNA. This was the only child to be Born directly from God. This is the only child with God’s DNA. This is the only child with blood type “G.”
  - This child was:
    - Precious
    - Priceless
    - Powerful

- So Powerful that this gift can:
  - Turn hopeless situations around
  - Heal the broken hearted
  - Reconcile broken marriages
  - Bring back wayward children
  - Increase finances
  - Heal the sick
  - Raise the dead
  - Remove burdens
  - Destroy yokes
  - This Gift is Jesus!
  - **The Giver is God, the Grace is Love, the Gift is Jesus!**
The recipients (The World)

- This world in the Greek is cosmon. This is where we get cosmos, or universe from. This Gift of God is open to all people, to all nationalities, to all races.
  - Black Folk -- The Gift is Jesus
  - White Folk -- The Gift is Jesus
  - Hispanic Folk -- The Gift is Jesus
  - Asian Folk -- The Gift is Jesus
  - God is not like us. God is not prejudice, God is not wishy-washy, and God does not play favorites.
  - God is the Giver. Love is the Grace. Jesus is the Gift. The World are the Recipients.

The Requirement (Believeth)

- Some gifts come, no strings attached. All you need do is receive it. This gift comes, however, with ONE Requirement, belief!
- This word believeth in the Greek is the word pisteuo, which means to have faith.
- (Heb 11:6 KJV) But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
- Faith in the Son of God is the one and only requirement to receive this precious, priceless, and powerful gift.
- It takes faith to believe in a God you cannot see.
- It takes faith to believe in a Jesus you did not see die.
- It takes faith to believe in a Holy Spirit that you have never come in contact with.
- But if you take that Leap of Faith, you can receive that Gift that will change your life, forever!
- God is the Giver. Love is the Grace. Jesus is the Gift. The World are the Recipients. Belief is the Requirement.
The Reward (Not Perish, Everlasting Life)

- Now let me tell you about a two-fold reward that is also in the text.
- First of all, if you are not saved this morning, you have a one way ticket to Hell. All expenses paid. You did not ask for these reservations, you were born with them. The only way to get out of these reservations you were born with, is to be Born-Again. Once you accept Jesus Christ, by faith and belief in Him, you **WILL NOT PERISH!**
  - It may not be easy all the time but, you **WILL NOT PERISH!**
  - You friends may not like you any more, but **WILL NOT PERISH!**
  - Your girlfriend may leave you, but **WILL NOT PERISH!**
  - NO matter what the devil says, you **WILL NOT PERISH!**
  - This is the **First Reward!**
- The Second Reward is equally powerful. Not only have your reservations to Hell been cancelled, your reservations to Heaven have been confirmed. Your confirmation number this morning is 3:16.
  - You may not know anything else, but know 3:16
  - You may not know Genesis to revelations, but know 3:16
  - For 3:16 guarantees you **Everlasting Life!**
  - This life that God gives you will, last forever.
  - Not only will you make it to heaven and live forever, but with God, you can enjoy the ride
  - He gives us abundant, everlasting life

**The Giver is God**

**The Grace is Love**

**The Gift is Jesus**

**The Recipients are the World**

**The Requirement is Belief**

**The Rewards are Not Perishing and Everlasting Life**

**The Choice is Yours**