

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Where's My Present?

Bill Brinkworth

“Happy Bill’s Birthday!” welcomed another party-goer. “Wait until you see what I got you,” as the present was removed from its hiding place behind his back.

“You got me something? Oh, wow,” was the exclamation as the curly bow was clumsily removed from the gift.

As the gift-receiver ripped off the wrapping paper, on the other side of the room another excited voice gleefully proclaimed, “I got you something, too.”

An ecstatic voice shrilled, “For me?” as she received the large, carefully wrapped package. Several in the celebration gravitated to that girl to see what was getting her so excited.

The gift-giver smiled as he could tell his thoughtfulness was appreciated. He watched the girl carefully remove the packaging tape, and responded with the customary, “Happy Bill’s Birthday.”

Soon, most of the gathering attendees were giving someone a package they produced from its hiding places. The room was filled with sounds of ripping paper from gifts

and “You shouldn’t have”’s. A surprised couple of, “Oh, I didn’t get you anything”’s, could also be heard scattered about the room.

In all the excitement of gift-giving, no one noticed the surprised person enter the room from the stairwell. He moved from group to group, almost unnoticed. As he moved to the child that was admiring the new laptop she had gotten, she made sure he saw it and outstretched it to him so he could get a better look. “Why it’s a great one,” he remarked. After he was shown it, she immediately turned back to her group and grabbed another package she was handed.

On he drifted to another group on the other side of the room. “Oh, it’s Bill!” exclaimed the one standing closest to him. “Happy birthday, Bill.”

After hearing that name, most in the room stopped their gift-giving and opening and turned to the visitor and echoed, “Hello, Bill.” Some greeted him with, “Happy birthday, Bill.” Hands waved at him.

One “Hey, old man,” echoed from just inside the dining room. Throughout the room giggles ensued over that remark. It was not long until all turned back to their peers and engaged in their party activities. Bill was once again left to himself.

Soon, the party got back on its track, and Bill stood all alone. No one even heard him sadly whisper, “And, where’s my present? It’s my birthday!”

Such an occurrence, if it happened to us, would be most horrifying and heartbreaking to be forgotten at one's own birthday party, but many do that every year. A day put aside years ago by our Christian-oriented forefathers to remember the birth of Christ is still practiced by most. Gifts are given to one another. Feasts are prepared for those attending family gatherings. Benevolence is at the year's all-time high, as even the least unfortunate are remembered and given something from strangers. Festivities are everywhere: in the decorations throughout the town and the decorations on a tree in the living room. However, like Bill's birthday, the main reason for the celebration is often forgotten. The reason for the season is Jesus, but He is little remembered or honored.

This year, make your Christmas different. Ignore the world's tendency to remove any mention of Christ on the day that was put aside to honor His birth. Let all know that Jesus is the reason for the season with as many opportunities to say "Merry Christmas" as you can.

Above all, make sure you give the Reason for the season the best gift of all. No, Christ has no desire for any material gift. He desires your heart, your time, and your devotion. All year long give to him:

- Your obedience to His commandments:
"If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15
- Your giving Him the praise He deserves:
"I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high." Psalms 7:17

- Your willingness to live for Him:
“Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.” Psalms 100:2
- Your love:
“And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.” Deut. 6:5
“My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.” Pro. 23:26

This year, give the Lord all He wants — you!

“The best gift is not under the tree; it was on the tree at Calvary!” — Roy Phillips

Christmas Bells

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day
 Their old familiar carols play,
 And wild and sweet the words repeat
 Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*I thought how, as the day had come,
 The belfries of all Christendom
 Had rolled along the unbroken song
 Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*And in despair I bowed my head;
 “There is no peace on earth,” I said;
 “For hate is strong, and mocks the song*

Of peace on earth, good-will to men.”

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep;
“God is not dead, nor doth He sleep!
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!”*

***Sign outside a church one month before Christmas:
“Come on in, and avoid the Christmas rush.”***

Giving God What God Gave Us

Author Unknown

A little girl told an older friend that she was going to give her papa a pair of slippers for Christmas. “Where will you get your money?” asked the friend.

The little girl opened her eyes wide and said, “Why, Father will give me the money.”

The friend was silent, as he realized the father would be buying his own Christmas present. Even though the father would pay for his own present, it would still thrill him to receive the gift from his daughter.

All that we give the Lord is given to us by Him. When we give Him anything, it is, as was the small child, only giving Him something He gave us. Still, God loves it when we do give to Him. Putting God first in our lives thrills Him.

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” James 1:17

“I am the one that is making the list, and I don’t have to check it twice!” — God

Only Forgotten Son

Walter Knight

A chaplain, in a poorly lighted railway station, was endeavoring to show a soldier the way of life eternal in Christ. Opening a New Testament to John 3:16, the chaplain said, “Read it.”

The soldier rendered it incorrectly as “For God so loved the world that He gave His only FORGOTTEN Son ...”. Inaccurate was the reading, but truthful to many. Christ is forgotten.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten [born] Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:6

“Xmas is the season without THE REASON”