

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Acts 20:32-36**.
- B. This is the time of year when gifts are given. Merchants thrive on people buying and giving. Some have "gift exchanges" at school, church, or place of business.
- C. This lesson is about a gift exchange; an exchange between God, ourselves, and each other.

## I. GOD'S GIFTS TO US.

- A. God is a giving God. He is not selfish in any way, when it comes to the needs of mankind. He has given, given often, and given freely. God has given the best. With the material blessings as a given to all men, there are at least three special, spiritual gifts to consider.
- B. **First, God has given Jesus to the world.**  
No greater gift has ever or will ever be given (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 8:31-32).
- C. **Second, God has given His grace.**  
Salvation is by grace through faith. Without this wonderful gift, mankind is forever doomed in his sins (Eph. 1:7-8; 2:4-10; Titus 3:4-7).
- D. **Third, God has given the Holy Spirit.**  
When one becomes a Xian by faith and is baptized, he/she receives two things; the forgiveness of sins, and the indwelling of the HS (Ac. 2:38; Rom. 8:26; Eph. 4:30).

## II. OUR GIFTS TO GOD.

- A. God cannot force us to give. It is our decision if we are to part with what has been given to us. There are some things we need to give to God.
- B. **First, we need to give ourselves to God.**  
God gave of Himself in JC and is asking no more of us when He asks us to give ourselves to Him (Rom. 12:1-2; Lk. 9:23; Gal. 2:20).
- C. **Second, we need to give our thanks to God.**  
Xians are thankful people. They are not to steal, covet, or be jealous. They are to be thankful to God, from whom all blessings flow (Col. 3:15-17; 1:3; 2:6-7; 4:2).
- D. **Third, we need to give God time in Bible study and prayer.**  
When all else fails read the instructions and ask someone else! Since we have failed to live life as we should let's go to the Word and ask for help (2Tim. 2:15; Jas. 4:2c).

## III. OUR GIFTS TO EACH OTHER.

- A. We give not so that we can receive in return, but to give glory to God.
- B. **First, give honor to one another.**  
Remember, whether you like a brother or sister, they are a child of the King, treat them that way! (1Pet. 1:22-23; Rom. 12:18).
- C. **Second, give time to one another.**  
Don't believe this myth about *quality* time is more important than *quantity* time. Quantity time is quality time! If we are too busy w/job, sports, clubs, etc., to give time to the church and its activities then we are too busy (1Jn. 3:16-17)!
- D. **Third, give ourselves to each other.**  
A great study of the Bible is to look at all of the one another passages. Many are found in Hebrews. Some Xians are weak in the faith because no one has taken as interest in them. Do not be guilty of carelessness (Rom. 12:9-13).
- E. **Fourth, give the gospel to one another.**  
When we share the good news to help others become Xians, or to help strengthen fellow Xians, we

are giving to reap eternal rewards (2Tim. 2:2).

**CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. Gift exchanges are fun. In our case it is spiritually profitable that we exchange gifts with God.
- B. God has given gifts to us, what is your attitude?
  - 1. The robber says, "What's your is mine--I'll take it."
  - 2. The selfish say, "What is mine is mine--I'll keep it."
  - 3. The Xian says, "What's mine is from God--I'll share it."
- C. Give to God, and others, by responding to Jesus.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.