

The Perfect Gift

Sunday Morning, December 9, 2012

Thesis:

Give God the Perfect Gift - The Shema

Introduction:

Christmas Gifts Past

Terry/Boy - Bike Surprise!

Cathy/Wife - Special Request

What Can I Give God for Christmas?

I. Wise Men Give Gifts to God!

(Matthew 2: 1 – 11)

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived unexpectedly in Jerusalem,
2 saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."
3 When King Herod heard this, he was deeply disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.
4 So he assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people and asked them where the Messiah would be born.
5 "In Bethlehem of Judea," they told him, "because this is what was written by the prophet:
6 And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah: because out of you will come a leader who will shepherd My people Israel."
7 Then Herod secretly summoned the wise men and asked them the exact time the star appeared.
8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you find Him, report back to me so that I too can go and worship Him."

(More of passage on next page)

9 After hearing the king, they went on their way. And there it was—the star they had seen in the east! It led them until it came and stopped above the place where the child was.

10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed beyond measure.

11 Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary His mother, and falling to their knees, they worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Gold - Diety/God

Frankincense - Intercessory Prayer and Mediator/High Priest

Myrrh - Death Prophesied

What Was Enough to Give Our Savior?!

II. The Prophet Micah Asked: "What Gift Can I Give God?"

(Micah 6: 6-8)

6 What should I bring before the Lord when I come to bow before God on high? Should I come before Him with burnt offerings, with year-old calves?
7 Would the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams or with ten thousand streams of oil? Should I give my firstborn for my transgression, the child of my body for my own sin?
8 Mankind, He has told you what is good and what it is the Lord requires of you: to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with your God.

Justice

Mercy

Humility

(Matthew 10:42)

And whoever gives just a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple—I assure you: He will never lose his reward!"

A Gift to God is to Be Kind to Others!

III. What is the Perfect Gift for God?
(Matthew 22: 36-39)

36 "Teacher, which command in the law is the greatest?"

37 He said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, and with all your mind.

38 This is the greatest and most important command.

39 The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.

Heart
Mind or Soul

(Deuteronomy 6:5)

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,
and with all your strength.

The Shema

Might

The Shema is the Perfect Gift for God!

Conclusion:

This Christmas Season Decide to Give the Perfect Gift to God,
"The Shema"

Then Your Love for God Will Glorify Him and Bless Others!