Pastor’s Notes

December 2024

December is the time of year we think of gifts. The custom started in the Christian world with three kings from the east bringing gifts to Baby Jesus. Upon seeing Jesus, they bowed down and worshiped him and gave him Gold, incense and myrrh. Three gifts worth a great deal and were given from the heart.

Over the years, we all have been given gifts. Can you think of a gift you have been given in the past that was worth a lot? A gift that stands out as one of great value. This is such a story….

As a child my family moved several times. My father had a hard time finding work. From Michigan to Ohio where my sister was born. To South Carolina, where I was born. Again, to Ohio. Back to South Carolina. Then, upon arriving in Ohio again, my father found a job with minimal pay in a grocery store. Since we had very little money things were financially tight. My father would bring home what he could afford or was given at the A&P Grocery Store after his shift was over. I know he struggled to make sure we had food.

We lived in a building with four family units in a not so good part of town. Christmas came that winter and found us living with next to nothing. It was also the time in my life I received the best gift ever.

My mother came across some cloth. I suspect it was from her closet. Maybe a blouse or shirt. She made me the best gift ever. She made me a new set of clothes for my teddy bear. It was a suit that made my worn friend look as though he was brand new. I was so proud of my teddy bear. I remember showing him off to anyone that would listen. With a gift like that how could we have been poor? Even now, it was the best gift my parents ever gave me.

What makes this gift so special is that it was the first gift I was ever given. And like the gifts from the three wise men, it came from the heart.

Christ has given us all a gift from his heart. A gift that far exceeds anything we could ever get in this life. Better than Gold, frankincense, myrrh, or even teddy bear clothing. He gave each of us forgiveness for our sins and an eternity with him. He promised to be with us as we go through this life and give us strength when times get tough.

We may feel as though we are poor in this life. But Christ has promised us riches beyond compare.

Yours in Christ,

