



Grand Prelate's Monthly Message

DECEMBER 2025

We are now in the heart of the Christmas season. I would like to begin this month's message with a quote from Corrie Ten Boom, author of 'The Hiding Place', who said, "Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life."

That quote captures what Christmas is all about. The ultimate gift of love when God gave His only Son to the world. The perfect gift came through the perfect motive... Love. The perfect, forgiving, steadfast, eternal love of God. 1 John 4:10 tells us, "In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

The gift of Christ is the best gift of all...

Christmas gifts are given to be used. Many of you who know me know that I have been a 'biker' for most of my life. For seven years I pastored what was essentially a "biker" church. My most recent motorcycle was a Christmas present that my wife picked out for me. Even before I had a motorcycle, my first motorized vehicle was a moped that my dad gave me when I was 15. So basically, two of my four two-wheeled rides have been Christmas gifts.

Much of my Christian walk came about on two-wheels. But the most important thing I learned through that was not to enjoy riding through life with God as my passenger, observing me and keeping track of what I do, but instead, changing places with Him and giving Him control. When I let God take the lead, He knew the most delightful ways to travel and the journey became more exciting as he took me places and helped me to accomplish things I never could have imagined. All I had to do was hang on. And when I'm sure that I can't do any more, He just says, "Let's ride."

Jeremiah 29:11 says – For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity, to give you a future and a hope.

Christmas is a celebration of God's most precious gift to us. Just as God met me and shared that gift with me on the back of a motorcycle, God shares that same gift to each one of us in our own special way.

A revivalist pastor named Vance Havner said, "Christmas is based on an exchange of gifts, the gift of God to man—His unspeakable gift of His Son, and the gift of man to God—when we present our bodies as a living sacrifice.

The story of Jesus giving of Himself to the world has often been called 'the Great Exchange'. We humbly bring ourselves, and our sins, to Him and he gives us eternal life in return.

Corrie Ten Boom was right; we can't add to Christmas. God has provided everything to us through Christ. We cannot add anything to what God has already done through grace, mercy and favor. But we can celebrate God's gift by helping to bring comfort, peace and good will to all.

As this Christmas season is upon us, let us be living sacrifices to Christ, using the gifts God has given us to be a blessing to others on His behalf, bringing good tidings of great joy to all people.

Merry Christmas
Rick Saunders
Grand Prelate