



Christmas Gift-giving

Christmas is a time of gift-giving, most strikingly illustrated by the myriad gifts placed under the Christmas tree. But is gift-giving the reason for the holiday? Does it even fit the spirit of Christmas?

Well, that depends.

The commercialization of Christmas, to the extent that the “Christ” in Christmas is lost, certainly does not. But this does not mean that gift-giving is bad; it simply means that material wants should not be allowed to overshadow or supplant spiritual needs. In fact, gift-giving can be a very beneficial and blessed thing, not only for the recipient but also for the gift-giver. Such is the case when a gift is given to a family member out of true love, or to a stranger in need as an act of genuine charity.

The Most Important Gifts

Yet Christmas is also a good time to reflect on the fact that the most important gifts are not those that are put under a tree or dropped into a collection box. They are not the gifts that we customarily give to each other, but the gifts that God has given, and continues to give, to man.

First of all, God has given us the gift of life. He has also given us inalienable rights, which, as described in the Declaration of Independence, include not only life, but also liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Admittedly, the right to life can be transgressed by evildoers, as can other inalienable rights. But God has also given us an eternal soul that cannot be destroyed. Evildoers may torture and break the physical body, but they cannot destroy the soul or deny us eternal life.

They also cannot force us to do evil. After all, God has also given us free will, and we can choose good over evil. He has given us the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount, gifts that we can use to govern our lives. In a word, He has given us Truth. And He has given us our conscience and our faculties, including our intellect, so that we can know the difference between right and wrong, and can overcome evil with good works.

But there is one more gift that must be included in our short list: the gift that is at the center of Christmas. That gift is the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day, 2,000 years ago. Without God becoming man, as Christians believe He did, there could have been no sacrifice on the Cross and no forgiveness for all the sins of humankind. And there could have been no resurrection either. The true meaning of Christmas, properly understood, provides the world great hope, no matter how bad the times may be.

Using Our Gifts for Good

There is no question that the times we are living in today are difficult. This certainly comes across in our cover story, “[Enduring Faith](#).” But also evident in that article is the fact that history shows that there is plenty of reason for optimism.

If we have not already done so, this Christmas is a good time to resolve to use the many precious gifts God has given us to do our duty to the best of our abilities in all aspects of our lives. We should also thank God for our many blessings and trust in Him.

And as for the material gifts that we are given this Christmas, as well as all that we have, we should use



Written by [Staff](#) on December 6, 2022

Published in the December 26, 2022 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 38, No. 24

and do everything for the Glory of God.

Merry Christmas!

— *Gary Benoit*



Written by [Staff](#) on December 6, 2022

Published in the December 26, 2022 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 38, No. 24

Subscribe to the New American

Get exclusive digital access to the most informative,
non-partisan truthful news source for patriotic Americans!

Discover a refreshing blend of time-honored values, principles and insightful perspectives within the pages of "The New American" magazine. Delve into a world where tradition is the foundation, and exploration knows no bounds.

From politics and finance to foreign affairs, environment, culture, and technology, we bring you an unparalleled array of topics that matter most.



Subscribe

What's Included?

- 24 Issues Per Year
- Optional Print Edition
- Digital Edition Access
- Exclusive Subscriber Content
- Audio provided for all articles
- Unlimited access to past issues
- Coming Soon! Ad FREE
- 60-Day money back guarantee!
- Cancel anytime.