

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life!

John 3:16

THE THREE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS

1. The three great gifts of Christmas
Were not of myrrh and gold,
And frankincense both sweet and rare.
All these were things that soon grow old --
Magnificent! They had their day,
But soon in dust and ashes lay.
2. The three great gifts of Christmas
Came from the heart of God,
They spring from love unknown on earth
With all its crush of life and clod.
God gave the first to every one.
The gift was Christ, His only Son!
3. Though heaven had its riches
Its gems of pink and blue,
The lowly, lovely Jesus came
And left it all to die for you.
Christ gave Himself, God's Lamb to die.
He let His wealth in heaven lie.

Chorus

A gift God loves at Christmas
So right and clear to all, --
'Tis when we give ourselves to Christ
Because we hear His call.

THE SIDE OF THE MANGER

1. See over the side of the manger,
Become like a little child.
Receive in your soul the dear Savior.
To do it, be meek and be mild.

Chorus

O Child of God's love, shine on, shine on, -
The world is a dark, dark place.
You came to save, "The Light" You gave
By You are truth and grace!

2. See over the side of the manger,
The gifts of the world will die.
The Christ as a Babe will enthrall you!
God's gift is eternal - that's why.
3. See over the side of the manger.
'Tis Jesus lies here so fair.
For you he was born and He died once
Do tell Him right now that you care.
4. See over the side of the manger
And pray for the inner sight
To hear "the unspeakable Gift" speak,
And quietly bask in "The Light."

And they said one to another, we do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief may come upon us; now therefore come that we may go and tell the king's household.

II Kings 7:9

. . .for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.

Luke 2:10b

A DAY OF GOOD TIDINGS

1. This is a day of tidings good! How can we hold our peace?
While myriads of angels sang salvation to release?
Lord, teach us to appreciate the tidings of His birth,
Since eager angels raised the song that changed the whole wide earth.
2. As Zacharias, awed and dumb, found speech at last to frame
The message of his vision grand, I now proclaim Thy Name!
We saw no herald bathed in light, but down the passing years
The tidings good yet sweeter grow while faith dispells our fears.
3. Who but a sinner saved can sing to all the hosts above?
Who but a sinner saved can speak constrained by Jesus love?
"For God so loved the world" of men, and that includes each one
Whoever lives or ever died, to all "He gave His Son":

Chorus

I could not join the heavenly hosts announcing great salvation,
I could not join the morning stars delighted o'er creation.
But Oh! the Bright and Morning Star did shine so soft on me!
And angels joyed when I did come in simple faith to Thee.

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might become rich.

II Cor. 8:9

In my Father's house are many mansions . . . I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:2

"HOME FOR CHRISTMAS"

The Son of God, though rich was He,
Left His rich home for poverty.
Through gates of glory here to die
"For joy" He left the starry sky!
That we might have a home in heav'n
His life for ours with joy was giv'n!

When time runs out and I am free
From all on earth once dear to me,
I too shall make a journey far
And climb up where the Eastern Star
Once shone. O Lord, let me go home,
Yes, "Home for Christmas", ne'er to roam!

Chorus

"Home for Christmas" -- quick'ning thought!
Can't express it as we ought!
How much a little kiss can thrill!
How cold the snow upon the sill!
How warm an old-time handshake feels!
Faster than my beating heart fly the shining
speeding wheels
To bear me home -- "Home for Christmas".

Thinking Through Many Christmases

. . . yet the life of the Lord shall be bound in the living bundle
with the Lord your God.

Abigail to David Amplified O.T.
I Samuel 25:29b

. . . I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love,
Hosea 11:4 Amplified O.T.

THE LIVING BUNDLE

1. In a manger for a cradle
 God's Beloved came to lie,
 Bind us to that Living Bundle
 Sent to sinners from on high!
2. Swaddling wrapped His tiny body,
 Joseph watched while Mary thought,
 Who could ponder in our folly,
 All the myst'ry God had wrought?
3. Then He grew to perfect manhood,
 You have heard His teachings true,
 Hung upon a cross of wormwood -
 See God's substitute for you!
4. Drawn by cords of kind intention,
 Still we marred with thorns God's face,
 Pardon this our great transgression -
 Firmly hold us by Thy grace.

Chorus

The Living Bundle, the Bundle of Life
 Appeared on time in a world of strife,
 'Twas Jesus, the Gift of the Father above!
He draws us together and ties us with love,
 With bands of holy love.

The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him,
and delivereth them.

Psalm 34:7

And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the
angels into Abraham's bosom.

Luke 16:22a

GOD KNOWS AT CHRISTMAS

1. Yes, God knows that you are living
 Though you seem to others "odd",
 For He says your hairs are numbered,
 And you're precious to your God.
2. Yes, God knows that you are puzzled,
 For your life He has a plan,
 And 'twill surely make a difference -
 Be as faithful as you can.
3. For to one and all who trust Him
 Everything for us God's done!
 And He's never stopped His giving
 Since the day He gave His Son!
4. When the Christmas candles flicker,
 And the carols sound out clear;
 Just remember that the angels
 Guard and keep His own down here.

Chorus

You are precious to the Savior!
 'Twas for you He came and died!
New cheer receive from Jesus
 For He knows just now you cried.
Christ was lonely, too, at Christmas.
 He left for us His home beside.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the children of God, even to them that believe on his name.

John 1:12

Jesus answered and said unto him (Nicodemus), "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:3

"BE BORN AGAIN" THIS CHRISTMAS DAY

As Christmas dawns so fair and bright,
It doth remind the earth,
Receive the Person, God's own Son,
And know the second birth!

O brother, see Immanuel
As One to be adored;
The wise man will believe on Him
As Savior, Master, Lord.

Because He came to die for me
I come to Him to live;
Today I do receive the King!
My self to Christ I give.

True life from heaven Jesus gives
A gift for everyone;
Be born God's child by faith today!
The life is in His Son.

Chorus

"Be born again," this Christmas Day!
Be born to life above;
You must, you know, "Be born again",
By Jesus grace and love.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given . . .

Isaiah 9:6a

Herein is love not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

John 4:10

BEHOLD THE EVIDENCE OF LOVE

He could have sent an angel,
He could have sent someone
Already grown, and not His own,
But God -- He sent His Son,
An infant -- and 'twas done!

I might have lived in Christ's day
I might have seen His face,
But no! He looked down through the years,
And chose me by His grace!
Apart from works and race!

The evidence of love is
An act of God so great
That all the world should have His Son
And enter heaven's gate!
By faith, before too late!

Chorus

Behold the evidence of love:
"A Son is given" from above!
Who could resist a Babe's sweet face,
Shining bright with truth and grace?
Do you have a heart that's torn?
Unto you "a Child is born".
While others in their sadness sink,
We've more than we could ask or think!!

And this, knowing the season that already it is time for you to wake
out of sleep; for now is salvation nearer to us than when we first
believed.

Romans 13:11

He who testifieth these things saith Yea: I come quickly. Amen: come,
Lord Jesus.

Rev. 22:20

NEARER ONE YEAR

So soon? Has Christmas come?
The birthday of our Savior dear --
So short a while since yesteryear!
So short, our earthly journey here.

So soon? Has Christmas come?
I falter. Forced am I to say,
"Not ready. Time has slipped away,
And now is no convenient day."

So soon? Has Christ sure come?
My crowns, to lay before His feet!
My zeal, could I the year repeat!
His face, worth waiting long, to greet!

Chorus

Nearer one year, His coming again!
Jesus, the Savior, born to reign,
Coming again, coming again!
To those who wait and watch and pray,
He's closer, closer everyday.
"Blessed hope" from out the blue,
Nearer one year, and ever true!

But though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach unto you any
gospel other than that which we preached unto you let him be an athema!

Gal. 1:8

THERE'S NO OTHER GOSPEL

1. An angel from heaven released from the sky
Could preach nothing better than you or than I!
We're saved by God's grace to lift up our great Lord,
Like Paul and like Peter we're charged by God's Word.
2. What Word do you ask? Soul-shaken, I say
Christ died for my sins on that glorious day!
My burden He bore, not a sin of His own!
He died in my place---in the Word it is shown.
3. The Spirit will come as you wait to receive.
There's pardon for all who will look and believe.
The gospel we preach and the gospel we bring
Is Christ sent down here to be Savior and King!
4. O wondrous salvation for "men of good will",
The heart of the gospel and my heart to fill.
The Gift of the Father, which cannot be won,
Was sung by the angels when God gave His Son!

Chorus

There's no other gospel, and no other Word
Brings "peace upon earth" whenever 'tis heard.
Take John 3:16 with its great "whosoever":
Believe on the Son to perish--no never!
Forgiving love: To whoso will,
Announced by the angels and yet needed still.
Tell it with joy and live it each day!
Not angels or men can take it away.

And they said to the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy speaking: for we have heard for ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.

John 4:42

"IF THOU KNEWEST THE GIFT"

Announced with a thrill by an angel band,
In swaddling soft-wrapped by a virgin's hand,
This strange little gift was a Baby born
To bring a new hope to a race care-worn.

No harm's to the soul who will "come and see",
If lonely or empty or sad you be.
Possessing the gift brings a life that's new,
For asking, the fountain of life for you!

Messiah awaits thee at Jacob's well,
The wonderful gift of God's love to tell!
Himself is the gift that He offers thee,
Salvation by grace, welling up and free!

The gifts of the Magi so dimly shine
Compared to the Father's, His Son divine!
Just what is your gift? Now have you a part?
You owe it to Christ. 'Tis your yielded heart!

Chorus

"If thou knewest the gift, the gift of God,"
Convicted thou wouldst be.
A mounting tide, thy shame would rise,
And quite encompass thee.
"If thou knewest the gift, the gift of God,"
A-tremble thou wouldst be,
To grasp the prize before thine eyes
And call the world to see!
The Son of God is He.

But we all with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

II Cor. 3:18

FROM JESUS FACE

Lo! In Jesus face the glory shone,
The heart of man to warm.
Its radiance a light bestows,
Its fires possess sweet charm.

Think! In Jesus face the knowledge came.
Our thoughts had turned away;
For 'tis the ignorance of the mind
Gives sin its power to sway.

Yea! In Jesus face the pow'r lies
To turn our twisted wills.
He glory gets by changing us,
And law of love fulfills.

Chorus

Lo! In Jesus face, a Baby small,
A light was shining in the stall.
Wen't you your darkness cast away?
For you He came on Christmas Day!
From the highest realm of heaven
To the lowest spot on earth
The Son of God in glory shone
The day of Jesus birth!

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible,
by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

I Peter 1:23

DO IT AGAIN AS IN BETHLEHEM

O pard'ning love, spring in our hearts,
And make each heart all new.
This life of God will surely grow
According to Christ's stature true!

New hearts for old, Thou givest free,
For sin and age have spoiled Thy plan.
To Thee alone we all must run,
And start again. By Thee we can.

Dark days of travail we have known,
Thy burden, though, "is light".
Become today our Savior dear,
And end earth's tears and night.

Chorus

Lord, Do it again as in Bethlehem
May Christ be born today.
Deep down in some heart, contrite and bowed,
Thy Seed incorruptible lay!
Thy gift from heaven Thou didst give
That new-born men may ever live.

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Who Will Receive God's Son?

How harmless, holy Jesus lay,
A wee small Babe on bed of hay!
So meek, so mild, He grew to be
The sinner's Friend of Galilee.
He went about to do but good,
Bestowed His life on all who would
His pardon take. Your sin confess,
You too may have His righteousness!

Chorus

Who will receive God's gracious Son? Jesus won't hurt anyone.
He will forgive what you have done.
If you but knew His love for you!
His heart is tender--so, don't run.
Jesus won't hurt anyone.

Christ would not break the bruised reed
So gently would He help and heed;
He causes you to understand
He will entreat but not command.
No force, no fear, no threat He tried
To draw you to His soothing side.
He simply shows His heart laid bare[!]
That you may learn His love, and care.

The scourge, the nails, the bitter gall,
He stood the stripes that healed us all.
It matters not what sin you've done.
'Twas laid on Him, the lamb-like One.
May Son of God, impart to thee
His tenderness that all may see
His health and vigor in thy soul,
His pow'r to wound then make whole.

Touch

I see him, but not now; I behold him but not nigh: There shall come
forth a star out of Jacob, and a sceptre shall arise out of Israel.
Numbers 24:17a

And lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till
it came and stood over where the young child was.
Matthew 2:9

I am the root and the off spring of David, the bright, the morning
star.

Rev. 22:16b

FOLLOW THE STAR

O'er all the world God's star doth shine
For those in other climes than mine,
This little light, if followed, glows,
And soon a radiance bestows.

With your love-gift prepare to go
As Magi did so long ago.
Look not behind nor say "Goodbye" --
Ahead eternal treasures lie!

Your pilgrimage will sweeter be
If others can accompany,
And God will lead you day by day
To His dear Son, "the light, the way".

For kings afar, the brightness shone --
Yet even I the "Light" may own!
Thy Light is come! Arise and shine!
Take Christ, the King new born as sign.

Chorus

Would you be faithful and wise?
Make haste! At sight of star, arise!
With joy exceeding, rejoice!
Then follow the star in its course!
Even from far, follow the star!
Whoever you are, follow the star --
Till before you the Christ Child lies.
He'll make you faithful and wise!

WHAT CHRISTMAS HAPPINESS IS:

(1968: The Christmas we both were
sick with flu.)

1. Knowing your sins are forgiven because Jesus came and died for you. I Peter 5:7
The wages of sin is death.
2. Knowing He is with you all the time.
3. Knowing He is coming for you in person and being ready to go, by life or death.
4. Knowing your loved ones are all saved, especially all your children.
5. Knowing God has a plan for your life and finding it each day.
6. Knowing you have a special Holy-Spirit-given-talent for serving God, and gladly performing it with a ~~daily~~ cheerful gratitude, expressed daily.
7. Knowing you have nothing against anyone, but have good will toward all. (How could bitterness find a root then?)
8. Knowing you are a good example, to follow especially for your own children.

CHRISTMAS HAPPINESS IS:
(In a lighter vein)

1. Having a handkerchief when you need it.
2. Having someone to put up the Christmas tree (a good David).
3. Knowing your part on the Christmas Program.
4. Eating your Christmas treat.
5. Seeing your name on a present.
6. Finding something else-~~\$~~- in the Christmas Card.
7. Getting the name you want at school.
8. Sharing your toys.
9. Being sure of God's loving concern in a dark world - sure that He was born to be My Savior!
10. Knowing no heart is too hard for God.
11. Becoming a child again.
12. Going to Calvary first and then to Bethlehem for daily cleansing and refreshment of soul.