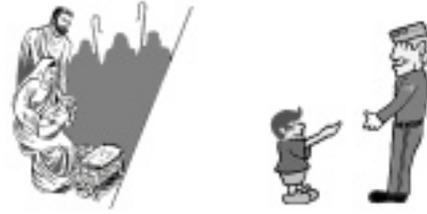


THE GREATEST GIFTS OF ALL TIME



The old warrior was about to leave the elementary school after participating in a Veteran's Day assembly when the father of a young boy approached him. A kindergarten student was fortunate to have his patriotic father on hand that day for the program, and insisted that he speak to a soldier before they got away. The father, young as well in comparison, told the former fighter that his five year old had something to say to him, "But I don't know what it is." The little boy peered skyward toward the soldier's leathered face and said, "Thanks for protecting us and keeping us safe."

A GREAT GIFT

The utmost price ever paid by any human was to give his life to protect the lives of others, and in the case of the free world, to guarantee their liberty and independence. The old soldier mentioned previously was one of the lucky ones to come home, successfully avoiding the perils of war for weeks, months, or years. Because of men like him, we have what we have and enjoy what we enjoy.

At the present time, cowards ambush the free world. They are afraid to face our brave men and women. By contrast, not only our military but also our police, firefighters, emergency workers, and others "lay it on the line" for us. Some die nearly every day. Yet, there is one gift even more precious.

A GREATER GIFT

We citizens cannot do what the military, police, firemen, EMT's, and others do for us. We are not qualified. It takes them to save us. It is also wonderful that when our brave men and women die, their lives do not need to stop at "Gone but Not Forgotten." Someone greater than all of us died for him or her, and for us too, to provide an even larger freedom. That is, freedom from Sin and Death.

When Adam and Eve first sinned, they brought death into the world. *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;* (Romans 3:23). God required the shedding of blood for forgiveness of our sins. Because of God's love for us, He provided a blood sacrifice for us, His son, the only one worthy: *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).

Salvation from our sins is for anyone who will accept God's gift. *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:* (John 1:12).

God has promised those that call on the name of His son, Jesus, the messiah, eternal life in heaven with Him: *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.* (John 14:1-3).

God's Son gave His life for you and your family. This is a gift, but you must accept it for it to be of value to you. To accept Jesus as your Savior, pray: *"Dear Father in Heaven, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins. I repent and ask that you will forgive me and help me to turn from my sins. I accept Jesus as my Savior. From this day forward I will strive to live for Him. Dear Lord Jesus, please come into my heart. Amen."*

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