

Priceless Gifts for All Seasons

(What to give as a gift, not only at this time of the year, but all year long.)

GIFTS FOR OTHERS

If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Romans 12:18

For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word ... "you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:14

"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

In all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified... $_{\rm Titus\ 2:7}$

GIFTS FOR YOUR SPOUSE

Enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life which He has given to you under the sun... Ecclesiastes 9:9 ... husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies. Ephesians 5:28 ... rejoice in the wife of your youth ... Be exhilarated always with her love. Proverbs 5:18-19 ... love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband. Ephesians 5:33 ... husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way. 1 Peter 3:7 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

Colossians 3:18

An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, But she who shames him is like rottenness in his bones.

[continued]

December 2014

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GIFTS FOR CHILDREN

[Older women] encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children.

Titus 2:4

And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the

discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:4

Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him. Proverbs 22:15

GIFTS FOR PARENTS

Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise). Ephesians 6:2

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Ephesians 6:1

Hear, O sons, the instruction of a father, and give attention that you may gain understanding. Proverbs 4:1

My son, observe the commandment of your father, and do not forsake the teaching of your mother; Bind them continually on your heart; Tie them around your neck. When you walk about, they will guide you; When you sleep, they will watch over you; And when you awake, they will talk to you. Proverbs 6:20-23

GIFTS FOR BRETHREN

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:7

That there should be no division in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.

1 Corinthians 12:25

... be hospitable to one another without complaint. As each one has received a special gift,

employ it in serving one another...

1 Peter 4:8-10

Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ ... standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.

Philippians 1:27

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Philippians 2:3-4

... walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love...

Ephesians 4:1-3

Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Ephesians 4:29



Ponder This

'I need, I want, I wish, I will'

These words indicate that one thinks it is all about "me." Well, in some respects that is good! Here are some directions gleaned from the New Testament to help you fulfill your needs, wants, wishes, and will.

I NEED . . . to be thoughtful and kind. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

I WANT . . . God to be glorified by my actions. "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

I WISH . . . to follow Jesus. Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself.

and take up his cross and follow Me." Matthew 16:24

I WILL . . . do my best to please the Lord. Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. 2 Corinthians 5:9

Yes, it is all about you . . . you doing what is right before God and man.

THE GIFT OF ENCOURAGEMENT

ENCOURAGE-1. To inspire with hope, courage, or confidence; hearten. 2. To give support to; 3. To stimulate; spur.

– American Heritage Dictionary

Who Needs to Receive the Gift?

ONE WHO IS SUFFERING

When one is dealing with personal sorrow. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother [Lazarus]. John 11:19

ONE WHO IS DESPONDENT

When one is overwhelmed by trials or persecution.

We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 1 Thessalonians 5:14

ONE WHO IS BEING TEMPTED

When one is being lured by the forbidden. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. Hebrews 3:13

EVERYONE WHO IS A CHRISTIAN

When one is trying to please the Lord while living in a wicked world.

For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11



Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.

On Christ the Solid Rock #378

In 1834 Edward Mote was considering the gracious experience of a Christian and wrote the words to the hymn "the immutable basis of a sinner's hope."

One day while visiting a friend and his sick wife, they read scripture together and also wanted to sing a hymn, but no hymn book could be found. Mote had in his pocket the words to his hymn and read them to the family. The woman's heart was greatly encouraged by the words and Dressed in His righteousness alone, requested to keep them. Mote went home and realized that if these words can help one dying woman maybe it can help others so he rewrote the words and added some more verses and included it in his "Hymns of Praise" collection. Today this hymn is known as "The Solid Rock."

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness: I dare not trust the sweetest frame,

but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace; In ev'ry high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, His covenant, His blood,

support me in the whelming flood; When all around my soul gives way,

He then is all my hope and stay.

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found;

faultless to stand before the throne.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;

All other ground is sinking sand,

All other ground is sinking sand.

-Stories of Famous Hymns

Neutrality To Stand Against Nothing Is to Stand For Nothing!

The trend to view every activity as right and nothing as wrong is a one-way ticket to ruin. It's also a flagrant act of hypocrisy. Outrageous acts of terror, murder, kidnaping, rape, etc., are condemned with a vengeance. What has been done is to expand what is acceptable under the guise of "diversity." Don't buy into the "no blame game"! Don't be taken in by such foolishness so as to engage in what is self-destructing and Godforbidden.

Stand **against** something and stand **for** something!

"Who will stand up for me against evildoers? Who will take his stand for me against those who do wickedness?" Psalms 94:16

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