

What is the best Christmas gift ?



**A broken drum.
You just can't beat it !**

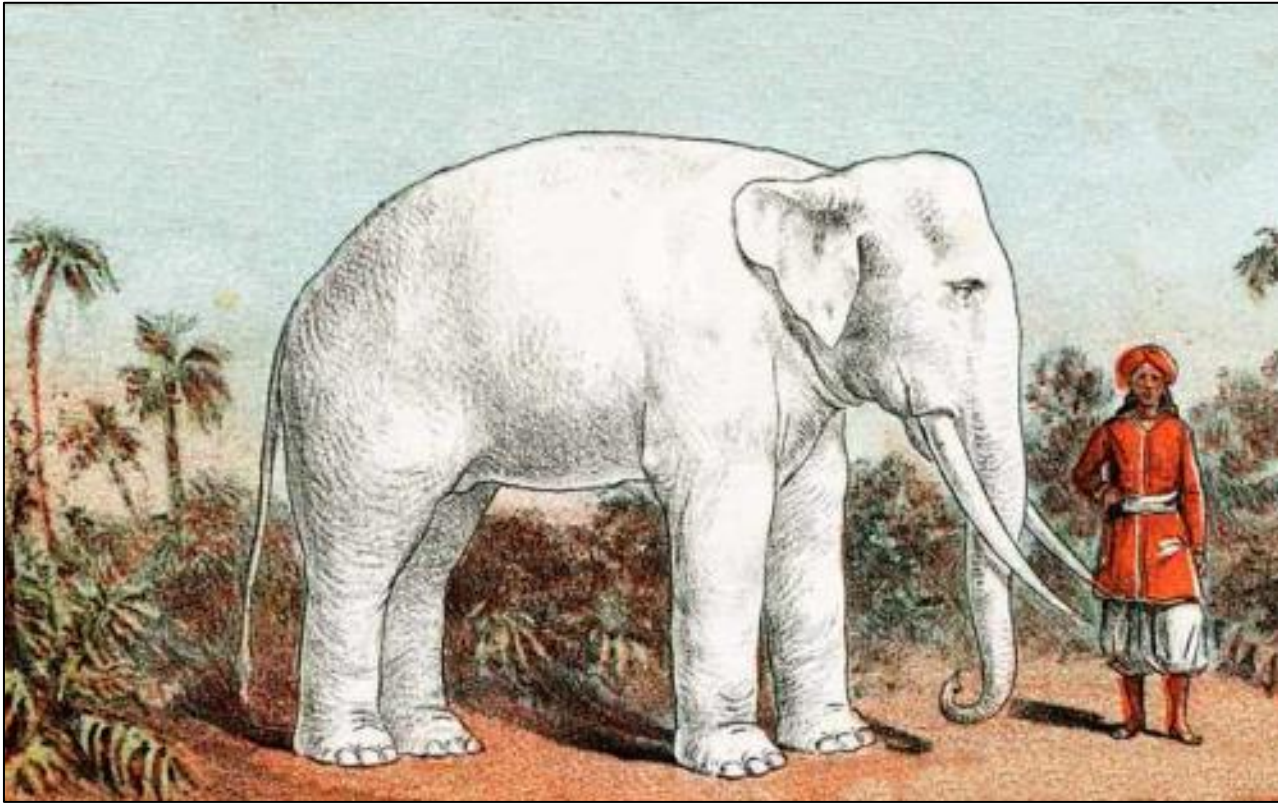
Like clouds and wind without rain is a man
who boasts of a gift he does not give.

Proverbs 25:14



Big on promises – small on delivery

Gifts - given for wrong reasons



Receiving a gift of a white elephant from a monarch was simultaneously a blessing and a curse. The animal was sacred and a sign of the monarch's favour but the recipient now had an expensive-to-maintain animal he could not give away and could not put to much practical use.

Gifts - given for wrong reasons

Many seek the favour of a generous man,
and everyone is a friend to a man who
gives gifts.

Proverbs 19:6



A gift in secret averts anger, and a
concealed bribe, strong wrath.

Proverbs 21:14

Gifts - given for wrong reasons

For three and a half days some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth.

Revelation 11:9-10



**Of all God's gifts
one of the greatest and most terrible
is
the freedom to choose**



Gifts – unwanted - unopened



And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell.

But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Joshua 24:15

God's Gifts – to all mankind

In past generations God allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.” Acts 14:16-17



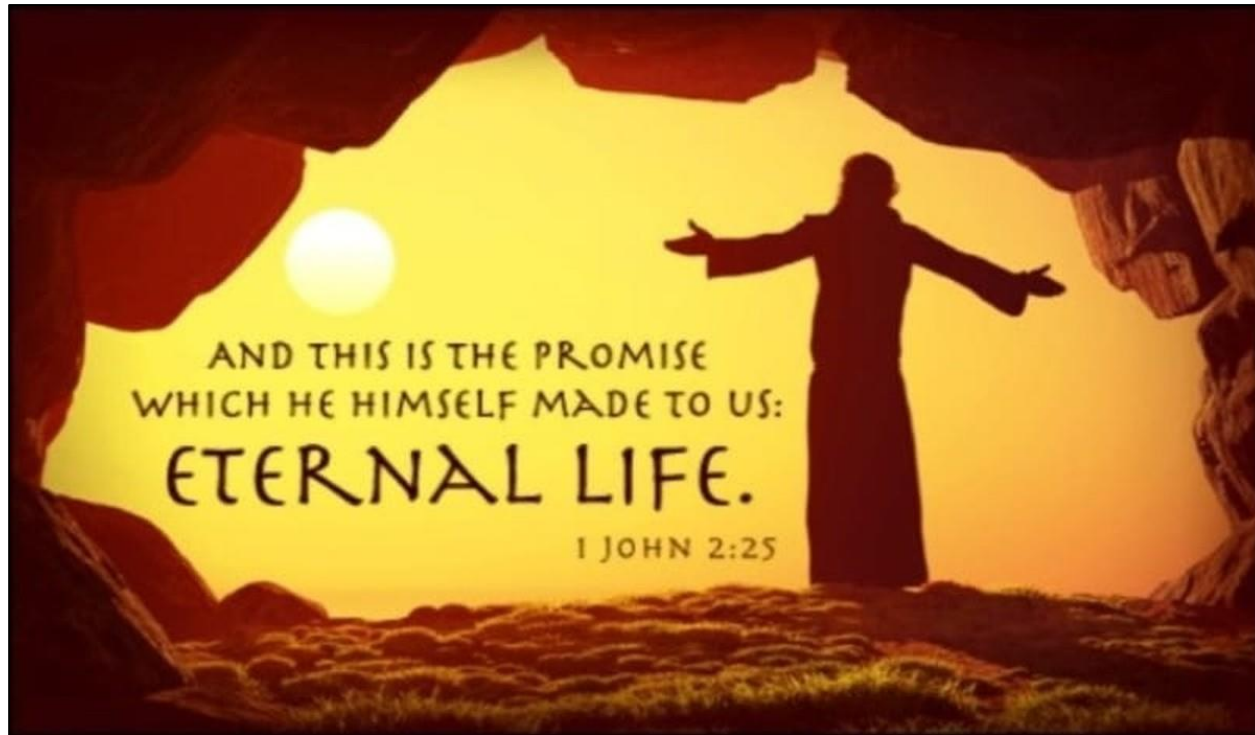
God's Gifts – to all mankind

And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for “In him we live and move and have our being’;
Acts 17:26-28



God's Gifts – to all who receive him by faith

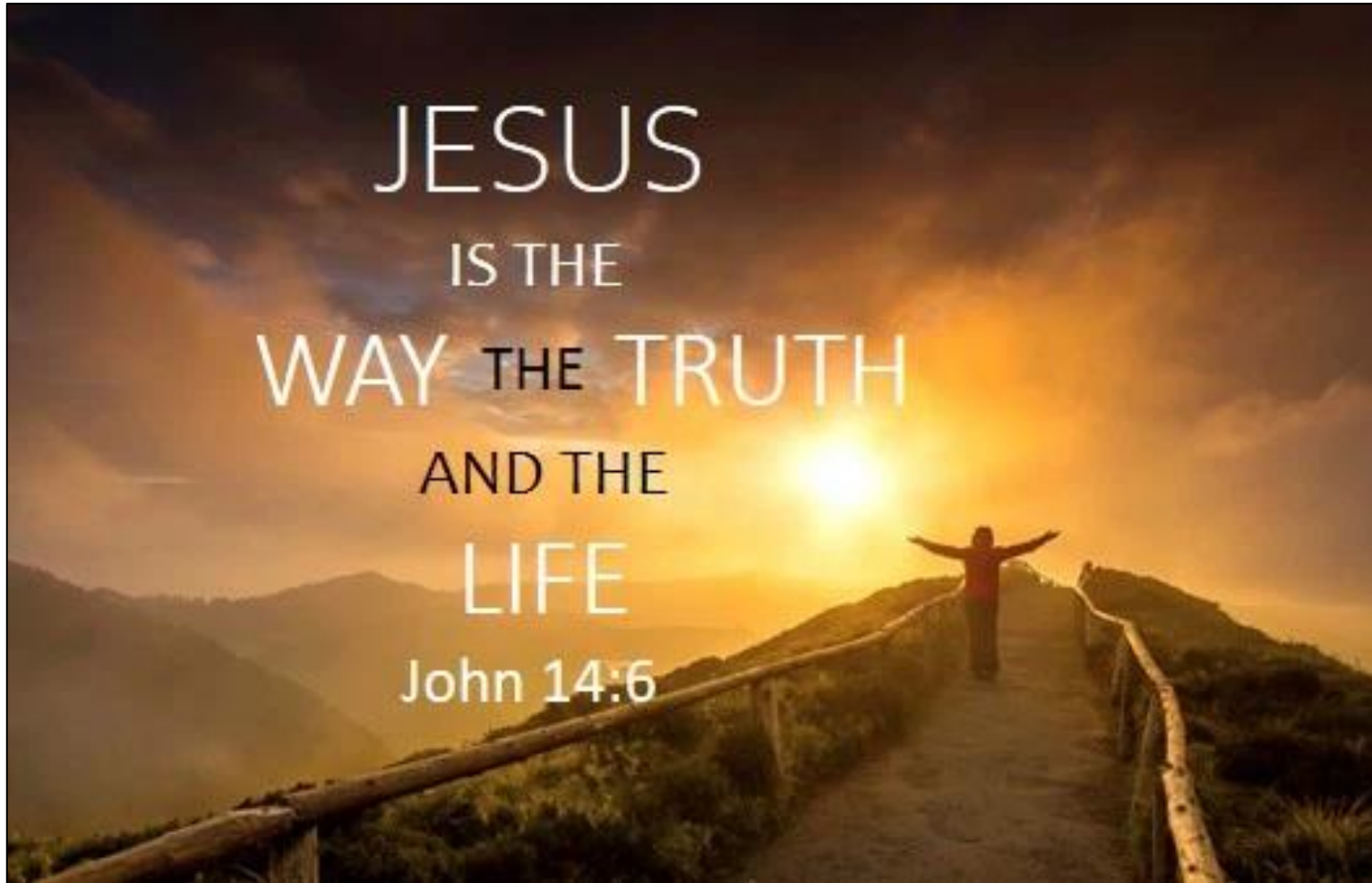
Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2:8

God's Gifts – His Son, Jesus



Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!
2 Corinthians 9:15

God's Gifts – the Holy Spirit - personally

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” Act 2:38 -39



God's Gifts – the gifts of the Holy Spirit



1 Corinthians 12:7-11 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the **utterance of wisdom**, and to another the utterance of **knowledge** according to the same Spirit, to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healing** by the one Spirit, to another the **working of miracles**, to another **prophecy**, to another the ability to **distinguish between spirits**, to another various kinds of **tongues**, to another the **interpretation** of tongues.



All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.



God's Gifts – people equipped by the Holy Spirit for service

Romans 12:6-8 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.



We can use our gifts as worship



We receive to serve and give God the glory !

