

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE LETTER OF JAMES

THE GREATEST GIFT YOU CAN GIVE

James 5:19-20 "My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins."

Gift giving is an integral part of the American culture. Gifts are given for significant occasions such as births, birthdays, graduations, weddings, wedding anniversaries and the like. Great thought and intention is expended as you attempt to find the right gift. You want it to be special and memorable. It warms your heart when you see the recipient of your gift displaying or using it.

You can give them a new article of clothing, a piece of jewelry, a trip of their lifetime. You know, however, the clothes you give will go out of style, wear out or become forgotten. The jewelry might also go out of style, break or get lost. The trip will at best create memories, but even those will fade.

Even treasured gifts wear out, are lost, become obsolete or no longer fit. At that point the person to whom you gave it throws it away, leaves it hang in their closet, donates it to a charity or turns it into a rag.

There is one gift you can give that endures forever. James writes in 5:19-20, "Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins." To take to heart and become concerned with the fact that someone you know no longer has a faith relationship with Jesus or never had one in the first place is the most important concern you can have for them.

To become spiritually concerned about someone, to pray for their soul, to speak with them about their sins and their need for forgiveness; to tell them of God's undeserved love for them and desire to forgive their sins through the saving work of His Son Jesus; to pray for and with them is God's way of enabling you to be His conduit to give them the gift that endures for all eternity. This gift neither moth or rust can destroy and thieves cannot break-in and steal. (Matthew 6:19)

Prayer: Give me, O Lord, a heart that seeks opportunities to minister with Your law and gospel to people who have no faith in Jesus. In His holy name. Amen.

“How shall they hear,” who have not heard
News of a Lord who loved and came;
Nor known His reconciling word,
Nor learned to trust a Savior’s name?

“To all the world,” to ev’ry place,
Neighbors and friends and far-off lands,
Preach the good news of saving grace;
Go while the great commission stands.

“Whom shall I send?” Who hears the call,
Constant in prayer, through toil and pain,
Telling of One who died for all,
To bring a lost world home again?

“Lord, here am I:” Your fire impart
To this poor cold self-centered soul;
Touch but my lips, my hands, my heart,
And make a world for Christ my goal.

Spirit of love, within us move:
Spirit of truth, in pow’r come down!
So shall thy hear and find and prove
Christ is their life, their joy, their crown.
(LSB 831)