The Practical Gifts Of Christmas

Use Them Or Lose Them

December 16, 2018
There are three types of gifts: Practical – Beautiful – Sentimental

Practical gifts are timely and useful at the time you receive them

Practical & Useful Gifts Have A Shelf Life
The Practical Gifts Of Christmas

* Our Gifts And Talents Have A Useful Shelf Life

* A Time In Which They Are To Be Used

* If We Do Not Use Them We May Lose Them
* Mat 2:1 (NIV) "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem" (2) "and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.""
"After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was."
(10) "When they saw the star, they were overjoyed." (11) "On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh." (12) "And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route."
The Practical Gifts Of Christmas

* “One of the main **reasons** we have the custom of **giving** and receiving **presents at Christmas**, is to remind us of the **presents** given to Jesus by the Wise Men”

* We Want To Make Sure That Our Giving And Gifting Does Not Obscure The Central Reason For Christmas -- **For God so loved the world…** **that He gave**
The Practical Gifts Of Christmas

* Talent: Don't Use It You Will Lose It

* The Gifts That God Has Given To Us Are Practical -- Given To Us To Be Used

* Gifts: Don’t Use Them You May Lose Them
The Practical Gifts Of Christmas

* Many Gifts, Talents, & Opportunities Are Given “For Such A Time As This”

* God Placed You So That You Can Use Your Gift “For Such A Time As This”
The Practical Gifts Of Christmas

* The Magi Offered True Worship
  They Gave Christ Their Best Gifts

* Their Gifts were Practical & Beneficial

* The Gifts Matched Jesus & His Work
Why Were These Gifts Timely & Practical?

* **Gold** = The Gift For A King
* **Frankincense** = The Gift For A Priest
* **Myrrh** = The Gift For One Who Is To Die

* They Foretold Of His Mission In Life
The Practical Gifts Of Christmas

We All Have Different Gifts With a Time Frame of Usefulness
(If We Don’t Use Them -- We Lose Them)

Everything We Have In Life We Have Received From Christ
The Practical Gifts Of Christmas

* Even One Talent Is Worth A Lot

* Jesus Christ Has Given Us All That We Need To Accomplish His Will

* (2 Pet 1:3 NIV) *His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness*
The Practical Gifts Of Christmas

* Our Talents & Gifts Are To Be Invested

* Talents & Gifts Become Valuable As They Are Put Into Motion

* All Of Our Talents & Gifts Great Or Small Can Be Used In The Service Of God
The Account Was Settled: (MT 25:19) "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.

* When Jesus Comes:
  * He Will **Reward** Those Who Have Been **Faithful**
  * He Will **Punish** Those Who Have Been **Unfaithful**
The Practical Gifts Of Christmas

* **We:**
  * Have A Lot Work To Do For The Kingdom
  * Should Be Doing It Now
  * Do All To The Best Of Our Ability

* **Wise Servants:**
  * Double Their Talents
  * Get Busy For The Kingdom
The Practical Gifts Of Christmas

* The More Talents (Gifts) You Have -- The More You Ought To Be Doing!

* The Reward Of Work Well Done is: More
  * More Work To Do
  * More Privilege
  * More Honor
The Practical Gifts Of Christmas

* When The Fruit Comes In -- We Won't Want To Stop Working

* As A Local Church We Want To Keep On Going (And Going) For God

* When God Begins To Birth Vision In This Body -- We Go With It!
We Must Maximize Potential And Vision As A Body

God Is Saying: “If You Will Use What I've Already Given You I Will Help You To Fully Utilize Your Property And Potential”
The Practical Gifts Of Christmas

* Someday The Account Is Going To Be Settled

* As We Take The Things God Is Calling Us To Investing Our Time, Talents, & Energy In Them

* Oh, What A Great Time That Will Be!
There Will Come A Day To Give An Account Of What Have We Done With The Talents The Lord Has Given Us

OUR GOAL IS TO HEAR:

'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'
The Practical Gifts Of Christmas

The Only Punishment Is Given To Those Who Do Nothing

* Condemnation Is Reserved For Those Who Will Not Use Their Talent (Gifts)

* We Must Never Develop Attitude That Says:
  * “I Am Going To Do As Little As I Can”
  * “I Am Going To Squeak By”
The Practical Gifts Of Christmas

* As We Trust That He Is Good
  * We Do What We Can Do
  * He Will Do The Rest

* The Call To Us Is--Invest In The Kingdom
* Don't Bury Your Gifts -- Use Them
(2 Tim 1:6 NIV) For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.
The Practical Gifts Of Christmas

The Two-Part Question:

* What Gifts Has God Given You?

* How Are You Using Them For The Kingdom Of God?