

Every year people stop for one short moment in time to celebrate by giving gifts. The funny thing is many of these same people leave the perfect gift we all need and want unwrapped and unopened under the tree.

## **The Love Of God: Overcoming Loneliness**

*"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:1-7*

## **Why Do We Avoid God?**

### **Fear I'll Have To Give Up My FUN**

*"God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment."*  
1 Timothy 6:17 (NIV)

*"Jesus came enjoying life." Matthew 11:19 (Ph)*

### **Fear I'll Have To Become A FANATIC**

*(Jesus) "I have come that you might have life and have it to the fullest!" John 10:10 (NIV)*

### **Fear I'll Lose My FREEDOM**

*(Jesus) "If the Son sets you free, you will be really free!"*  
John 8:36 (NIV)

*"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear."*  
1 John 1:18 (NIV)

*"I pray that you will grasp how WIDE and LONG and HIGH and DEEP is the love of Christ." Ephesians 3:17-18 (NIV)*

## God's Love Is ...

### Wide Enough To Include EVERYONE

"The Lord is loving toward all He has made." Psalm 145:17

"God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die." John 3:16 (CEV)

### Long Enough To Last FOREVER

"I have loved you with an everlasting love." Jeremiah 31:3 (NIV)

"God's love will last for all time." Psalm 89:2 (GN)

### High Enough To Be EVERYWHERE

"...neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:39 (NIV)

### Deep Enough To Meet ALL MY NEEDS

"My only hope is your love ... for my problems are too big for me to solve and are piled over my head." Psalms 40:11 (LB)

"The eternal God is your refuge and underneath you are His everlasting arms." Deuteronomy 32:27

"God has shown how much He loves us; it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

(God says) "With deep love I will take you back..."  
Isaiah 54:7 (GN)

## How Do I Get The Perfect Gift - The Love Of God?

**Acknowledge** ... I am a sinner and need God's forgiveness

"Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence... Sin pays off with death. But God's gift is eternal life given by Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 3:23, 6:23 (GN & CEV)

**Believe** ... Jesus is God and was raised from the dead.

"If you confess with your mouth, 'JESUS IS LORD', and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9 (NIV)

**Commit** ... all of my life to Him