

RUSSELL SANDERS

1-31-2021

TO GIVE AND BE GIVEN – LESSON 9

GOD'S GIFT OF LOVE

In this multi-lesson series, the first lesson was “to give” alms, the second lesson “to give” offerings, and lessons 3-8 on various aspects “to give” the tithe. Now we shift focus to what we are to “be given” by God.

The greatest gift to ever “be given” to us is God’s love. When God pours out His love upon people, they are irresistibly drawn to Him. Our human nature craves love and thrives upon it. A person who feels entirely unloved is an unhappy or miserable person. It adversely affects their life and behavior patterns. They seek love and acceptance from other people, or else they often “drown” themselves in activities that “numb” their sense of loss or their hurts.

However, there is one who gives to us a love greater than any human could ever give, and that is Almighty God, Jehovah. The gospel of St. John 3:16 says, ***“For God so loved the world (mankind) that He gave His only begotten (only born) Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish (eternal condemnation) but have everlasting life.”*** The Old Testament prophesied of this gift to “be given” hundreds of years before the birth of that love gift, Jesus.

God loves us because we are His children and His creation. All people belong to God and He loves each and every one of us. Unfortunately, sin separated mankind from a relationship with their Heavenly Father. Nevertheless, because of His great love, He made a way for our relationship with Him to be restored to Adam’s original sinless state.

In the epistle of I John 4 verses 8 and 16 says that ***“... God is love.”*** It is because of His love that He sent the eternal Yeshuah (Jesus) down from heaven’s throne to “be given” as the perfect sinless gift to be sacrificed as a redemption for sin. Yeshuah, called Emmanuel, “God with us” in the flesh, was the greatest gift ever given. Through the blood of His sacrifice on the cross, and His resurrection, and His ascension back to heaven’s throne, we are reconciled to Jehovah, Almighty God, our Father.

The gift “to be given” has already been given. It is now up to each individual to receive Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. A gift only truly becomes a gift when the intended recipient chooses to receive it.

If you have not personally received Jesus as your Lord, now is the best time to do it. Talk to Him in prayer.