



Tuesday, 12/13/16
RESTORE THE JOY OF MY SALVATION
READING: Psalm 51:10-13

The Christmas gift giving tradition in many families is similar to our own. There always seems to be what we call the 'big' gift, uniquely selected and tailored to the interest of each child. It's the gift that, when opened, is accompanied with wide eyes and cries of, "Thank you, Thank you!" It's the special gift kids remember several years removed.

Then there's what I call the "socks and underwear" gift. It's the opportunity parents take to update the very important part of our wardrobes that we don't often think about or appreciate. We generally don't consider them "gifts" as we ought, but we certainly realize their usefulness when they aren't there! When we receive a new package of socks we mutter a subdued, "thanks." While not particularly extravagant or "big", they are certainly needed.

The gift of Jesus Christ is both lavishly extravagant and desperately needed. King David wrote these words of Psalm 51 after Nathan confronted him about his lies, deceit, adultery, and murder. After his confession, David cries out with the Christmas list we all need:

- A clean heart, and a right spirit (v. 10)
- God's presence and the Holy Spirit (v. 11)
- Joy of salvation (v. 12)

Jesus Christ came into the world to pay for our sins. By faith in Christ and his finished work, we receive a clean heart and a right spirit. Because the Holy Spirit dwells in us, we have access to the very presence of God. As we ponder and study God's word together and individually, we receive joy and a willing spirit to follow and treasure Christ.

Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ, through whom sinners return to God by faith. Not only can we receive him freely, we can also share this extravagant and needed gift with other transgressors like us (v. 13)!

-CH Pat Devine