

# “A Gift and a Tree”

Rev. David J. Bauer



I came from a large family of siblings. On Christmas Eve we children would be forced to go to bed early, with anticipation and excitement coursing through and through us. It was hard for us to get to sleep. We would sneak down the stairs and peek around corners, trying to catch a glimpse of what we might expect on Christmas morning. We lay near the covered floor grate above the oil burning stove below allowing heat to our attic rooms, straining to catch a glimpse or to make sense of the whispers in the living room below us. We always awoke earlier than our parents on Christmas morning. Gifts were stacked around a decorated tree. Mom and dad would make us wait until they finally got up and dressed. Then mom would give the gifts out one at a time to each of us nine kids. We could observe what each of us had gotten. Gifts at Christmas!



Rev. David J. & Dolores Bauer  
Director & Office Assistant

**The God of the universe has a gift for us as well; and He has a wondrous tree!** Let us consider both the gift and the tree...

**First, let us consider God’s great gift.** What is it really?

**Eternal Life** – “*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*” –Romans 6:23

**Living Water** – “*Jesus answered...If you knew the gift of God and who it is that said to you, Give me a drink, you would have asked of Him and He would have given you living water.*” John 4:10

**Salvation** – “*For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.*” –Ephesians 2:8

**From God** – “*Every Good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, nor shadow of turning.*” –James 1:17

**But then there are some simple facts we must recognize about gifts:**

Gifts always cost the giver. –Galatians 1:4

Gifts usually focus on the giver and his benevolence. –Romans 8:32

Gifts cannot be paid for by the recipient. –Ephesians 2:9

Gifts take a sense of humility to receive. –1 Peter 5:5-6

Gifts must be received for them to be true gifts. –1 John 1:8-9

**Have you received God’s gift of eternal life by receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior?** God has provided a prepared place through a prepared procedure only for prepared people who have accepted His Salvation through His precious Son, Jesus Christ. Read carefully John 14:1-6 and you will find that Jesus is the ONLY way, the truth and the life! God does not have another plan to save humankind.

**Second, let us consider the tree, a vital part of God’s plan.**

Early in the Bible, we find that a tree was the object of humankind’s temptation and sinful desire. Partaking of the fruit of this tree was an act of

willful disobedience and awful consequences, a curse, and the beginning of far reaching problems for the human race. –Genesis 2:16-17; 3:16-19

The tree later became the object of idolatry, as man sought his own way to worship God his Creator. –Jeremiah 10:2-5

Anyone who would be hung on a tree was accursed. –Deuteronomy 21:23

**But fortunately, God can do some miraculous things with a known curse:**

God used wood from trees to save humans from a world wide flood. –Genesis 6

God used a branch from a tree to make bitter waters sweet. –Exodus 15:25

God used trees to construct the Ark of the Covenant and the tabernacle.

–Exodus 25-26

**Most Important** – Our Lord and Savior hung on a tree (a cross) bearing a curse for us in our place. “*Christ has redeemed us from the curse from the Law, being made a curse for us; for it is written, cursed is every one who hangs on a tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes you were healed.*” –1 Peter 2:24

God’s priceless gift was not delivered under a tree, but on a tree: A Savior, Jesus the Christ. This is a treasure of infinite value, for this gift gives us the forgiveness of sins, freedom from guilt and acceptance in God’s presence. Jesus, God’s timeless, eternal Son stepped out of eternity in time and space to become a baby in a human neighborhood. God’s Son came specifically for an hour of glory, when He would hang on a cross bearing our sin and shame. Jesus paid a great price to purchase our salvation, making us acceptable in God the Father’s sight! It is a free gift! But we must recognize three things:

1) We all are sinners, far from God’s glory. –Romans 3:23

2) God has provided a Savior to bear our sins, forgiving us and giving us His perfect righteousness. –2 Corinthians 5:21

3) But the gift must be received for us to have it. We must call upon Jesus, our Lord and Savior in order for the offer to be valid. –Romans 10:9-10, 13

DO receive Christ the Lord TODAY as your personal Savior!

The time to get your spiritual instrument in tune is early in the morning before the concert of the day begins.

We mutter and sputter  
We fume and we spurt,  
We mumble and grumble,  
Our feelings get hurt.

We can’t understand things,  
Our vision grows dim,  
When all that we need  
Is a moment with HIM.

-Author Unknown-

## The Lighter Side – The Stages of Man:

- 1) He believes in Santa Claus.
- 2) He doesn't believe in Santa Claus.
- 3) He is Santa Claus.  
but don't forget the 4th stage...
- 4) He now LOOKS like Santa Claus.

## RECIPES

### Jean Klever's Quick Pecan Pie

1 9-inch frozen unbaked pastry shell

3 Eggs

$\frac{1}{4}$  Cup Butter, melted

2 Cups Dark Brown Sugar

$\frac{1}{4}$  Cup Milk

1 Teaspoon Vanilla

1 Cup Pecans

Remove pastry shell from freezer. Break Eggs into a bowl; add Melted Butter, Brown Sugar, Milk and Vanilla. Beat with an electric mixer or spoon until well combined. Add Pecans. Pour into shell. Bake in 325 degree oven for 50 minutes. Cool and serve with a little scoop of Cool Whip on top. Yummy!



## HELPFUL TIPS

Don't be gouged by food companies who try to fool customers with their packaging. That big box may be less than full. Compare the weights of various brands to be sure you are getting your money's worth.

Don't give up on a batch of plastic food wrap that keeps sticking to itself. Keep the food wrap in the refrigerator and the problem will be corrected.

Experts say the worst time to do super mart food shopping is just before a meal. If you are hungry, everything will look appetizing and you'll spend more than you would otherwise.

If you burn your finger on a pan while cooking, DO NOT apply butter to the burning finger or rub in cold cream. Do hold your finger under cold running water.

Gifts to BRM can be sent to our PO Box or made online with any *charge* or *debit card* using the Paypal button on the left side of website page at: [www.biblrelatedministries.org](http://www.biblrelatedministries.org). It's easy to use! Thank you for your faithfulness to this valuable ministry! **Bible Related Ministries keeps Church doors open and good men behind our pulpits! BRM is supported 100% by individuals and church donations.**

**Don't let your hard earned life-savings go into a probate bureaucracy! NOT PLANNING is a plan, but it is NOT a very good plan!** Leave a legacy for your family & favorite ministries. When planning a legacy, give Terry L. Balko a call at 404-229-1645 or email Mr. Balko for forms and details at [terrylbalko@gmail.com](mailto:terrylbalko@gmail.com)

## *Bible Related Ministries*

[www.BibleRelatedMinistries.org](http://www.BibleRelatedMinistries.org)

Like us on Facebook

P. O. Box 272 - Hinsdale, Illinois 60522  
708-579-3800/3801 [djbauer101@gmail.com](mailto:djbauer101@gmail.com)



## *Bible Related Ministries Newsletter*

*Rev. David J. Bauer, Director*



# 2023

*"But when the fullness of the time was come,  
God sent forth his Son, made of a woman,  
made under the law" –Galatians 4:4.*

[www.BibleRelatedMinistries.org](http://www.BibleRelatedMinistries.org)

Like us on Facebook

*For Daily Verses and Latest Pics!*

**P.O. Box 272**

**Hinsdale, IL 60522**

## *Rev. David J. Bauer's Director's Itinerary*



Dec. 3 10:00 a.m. Emmanuel Bible Church,  
Berwyn, IL English Service  
12:00 noon Emmanuel Bible Church,  
Berwyn, IL Spanish Service  
(Missions Week)

We have BRM team members ready to supply pulpits as needed; Give BRM a call for a good preacher! 708-579-3800/3801

### **Mary Had a Little Lamb**

Mary had the little Lamb, who lived before His birth; Self-existent Son of God, from Heaven He came to Earth. (Micah 5:2)

Mary had the little Lamb; see Him in yonder stall— Virgin-born Son of God, to save man from the Fall. (Isaiah 7:14)

Mary had the little Lamb, obedient Son of God; Everywhere the Father led, His feet were sure to trod. (John 6:38)

Mary had the little Lamb, crucified on the tree  
The rejected Son of God, He died to set men free.  
(1 Peter 1:18)

Mary had the little Lamb—men placed Him in the grave, Thinking they were done with Him; to death He was no slave! (Matthew 28:6)

Mary had the little Lamb, ascended now is He;  
All work on Earth is ended, our Advocate to be.  
(Hebrews 4:14-16)

Mary had a little Lamb—mystery to behold!  
From the Lamb of Calvary, a Lion will unfold.  
(Revelation 5:5, 6)

When the Lamb comes again, of this be very sure:  
It won't be Lamb-like silence, but with the Lion's roar. (Psalm 2:12; Revelation 19:11-16)

## **BRM Field Report #12**

We have been busy with churches and pastors. Phones are ringing with lots of questions, messages and emails regarding church business!

Congratulations La Grange Bible Church, on the selection of Rev. Dan Enright as Lead Pastor. Pastor Dan and his family have been going to this church virtually all of his life. Dan has moved up in the ranks, first as Youth Pastor, then as Associate Pastor. Recently, the membership has affirmed Pastor Dan as Lead Pastor of the church with almost a unanimous consensus in a vote of confidence! We thank God for the faithfulness of Pastor Danny and Joanne Enright!

BRM received several calls from churches in Central Illinois, looking for pastors and direction. We arranged for Joe Stewart, our Central Illinois Associate to meet with an elder in a nearby church, with an assignment to pray for and advise this church in a proper direction for fruitful future ministry.

Yet another email from a pastor struggling with getting his board to understand housing allowance issues following his move from the church parsonage to buying his own house. Church people do not always realize the advantages, but look at added expense a pastor will need when he buys his own home. Yet owning a house in the neighborhood demonstrates to a congregation that the pastor is dug in for the long haul. And it is the single best investment he can make as well.

Three dear decades long friends of Pastor Bauer went to be with the Lord within just days of each other. Ironically, their memorials were planned on the same Saturday, November 4. We were honored to participate in two of the memorials and to offer condolences to the family for the third.

Now with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8) in eternal Glory is: John Borgeaud, Elder Summit Bible Church  
Pastor Jeff Bower, PG Mission & Crawford Bible Ch.  
Mike Slavik, Lifelong friend of Pastor Dave Bauer

Sincerely,

Rev. David J. Bauer Psalm 23:6

See pics of many events on BRM Facebook!