

DEEP SIX STUDY

December 12th, 2021

Wrapped – “It’s The Thought That Counts...”

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS *(You can view the full message online at capecodchurch.com/Watch)*

Opening: (Galatians 4:4-5^{NIV}) – This week we continue our Christmas series about “the art of giving.” You may have heard the phrase “it’s the thought that counts” about a gift – which, it turns out, usually means that a gift wasn’t great – it didn’t work. It can even be an alibi for *thoughtlessness*. But something inside of us knows that the best gifts aren’t necessarily the biggest or most expensive – they’re generally the most thoughtful, the most well-planned. Which brings us to Stage Two of the art of giving: The Plan.

1. God Had a Plan (Galatians 4:4^{NIV}, Psalm 139:13,16)

- God was thinking of you well before you were even thinking of you – he saw you and knew you as you were developing inside your mother’s body. He had a plan for all of humanity as well – from the beginning, before anything was even created, he planned to rescue and redeem us from our bad choices.
- The most precious, thoughtful, significant and beautiful Gift of all was always planned, because the Gift-Giver *always* had us in mind. In this case, it’s absolutely true that “it’s the thought that counts...”
- His plan was born on Christmas, but it didn’t begin there. His plan was his Son; his plan was hope!

2. It Was His Son (Galatians 4:4-5^{NIV}, John 1:1-5)

- God’s plan from the beginning was to send his son, Jesus, to rescue, redeem and adopt us. The Son came to make a way for us to once again become God’s own sons and daughters.
- When we say “yes” to Jesus and his offer of adoption, we’re not saying “yes” to a “JV partner of the Godhead” – we’re saying “yes” to God himself, who came in human flesh so that he could take our sins (our bad choices) on himself and pay for them, since we couldn’t do that ourselves. Jesus is, always was, and eternally will be God.
- Jesus – “The Word” – has existed forever. He was always The Plan for our salvation and redemption. Yet in a moment of human time, he took on the flesh of a human baby in order to save us and give us The Gift of Life – eternal, abundant life.
- All we have to do to receive God’s perfectly planned and thoughtful gift is to say “yes” to Jesus – say “yes” to the Gift of Life he offers. Christmas is a great time to do that – just say “yes”!

