## The Greatest Gift

By Dick Ruckman

Virginia Deferia's songs, poetry, prayers are inspirational when it comes to improving my personal relationship with the Lord God and I wanted to share that with you along with my personal understanding of what the Bible says to me that JESUS gave the greatest gift to meet our greatest need.

The most documented event in ancient history is the birth of Christ, one such short story is recorded in Luke chapter 2 and the second most documented event that happened in ancient history is the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and one good short story of this event can be found in Matthew the last three chapters. History which is His story is the most accurate historical document ever written, however, it is also useful pragmatically and can be personally tested. Heb 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Interestingly, true Christianity is not a religion; it is a relationship. Religions follow rules with the hope that so many good deeds will outweigh bad, like trying to work your way into heaven which is nothing more than humanistic thinking. Christianity is an inspired way of life; it is given as a free gift when the Holy Spirit comes into your life. We are His most favorite creation; He had you and me in mind right down to our D N A before He created the heavens and the earth. He made us in His image, formed us with His own hands. Everything else He created, He spoke into existence.

We are made to have fellowship with our Lord but because of the sin condition of man and the fact that God is holy without sin, He could not have fellowship with sin so He made a plan for our redemption whereby Jesus gave the greatest gift to meet our greatest need. The "Manufacturer's Manual" describes the penalty for sin is death. Our Lord Jesus paid the penalty for our sin making the ultimate sacrifice when He died on the cross in our place offering us a free gift payment in full if we repent of our sin and thank Him for the greatest gift a person can ever receive - our Salvation known as the Gospel, the good news. It is impossible to try to live a Christian life without receiving the gift of salvation giving us the Holy Spirit who prompts us with truth and grace. May the peace and presence of our Lord Jesus be personally yours in this present world of chaos.