

The Unopened Gift

This past December, Rob Drinkwater reported in the *Western Star*, a Canadian newspaper, about a man who keeps an unopened Christmas gift from the girl who dumped him nearly 50 years ago.

Back in 1970, Adrian Pearce was a 17-year-old Grade 12 student at George S. Henry Secondary School in Don Mills, Ontario, looking forward to Christmas vacation. Then his girlfriend – his first serious girlfriend – broke up with him.

“She gave me a present at the same time, and I took the present home,” Pearce said. “I had a long walk home, and I was all upset and angry and all the things you feel when somebody breaks up with you. And so I fired the present under the Christmas tree. After my family opened the gifts at Christmas, there was still one Christmas gift left, and it’s the gift this girl Vicki had given me. I told my family I’m never going to open that present.”

He never did.

For years, Pearce continued placing the present under the tree, even after he got married and had children. His kids kept asking him if they could open it, but Pearce refused. Eventually, his wife put her foot down and said it wasn’t welcome under the tree anymore.

Now he just pulls out the old gift, which is wrapped in shiny blue paper that’s fading, and just looks at it before putting it away again.

Pearce’s story illustrates the fact that many people have a difficult time receiving. They have been made to feel unworthy in the past and that feeling has stayed with them.

To address this, God has stepped in to reassert our true value and worth. He did this by sending His only begotten Son into the world to give His life for our redemption.

Have you ever been rejected or abused? Have you been made to feel unworthy? As a result, do you have a difficult time receiving the gifts of praise and recognition? Perhaps you even find it hard to believe and to accept what Jesus has done for you.

Above all else, God wants you to understand that He loves you.

Don’t be like Mr. Pearce, who refuses to open the gift that has been given to him, or like countless others who, every year, celebrate Christmas and Easter without actually receiving the gift that’s been offered.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter