



NewsFocus

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UNCLAIMED RICHES

have you claimed yours?

As we again experience another Christmas, it seems amazing that so few people in this country are able to lay hold of the glorious truth that we call the Incarnation. This is that the God who created our universe and all the universes beyond our solar system, really did become a man and lived among us for thirty years.

But let us start with something we can all understand. It has been revealed by National Savings and Investments (NS&I) that 364,000 prizes worth a total of £21,600,000 remain unclaimed. NS&I have just launched a web site where Premium Bond holders can input their numbers to see if they have omitted to claim their prizes. A spokesman for NS&I has said that many people are sitting on gold mines but do not know it. Of course, while those people remain in their ignorance, the money that is rightfully theirs is of no use to them. Think for a moment how different their Christmas would be if they knew that they did not have £250 in the bank but £250,000!

I do not have any Premium Bonds and so I have no numbers to check. But perhaps some of you reading this should be turning

out your drawers to find those certificates that you have not seen for a while.

Whilst it is sad to think of all that money just sitting there when it could be put to good use it is, after all, just money. We know that so many people have far more unclaimed than that. The Bible tells us how much God loved the world. He gave his Son, his one and only Son. *And this is why:* so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life (John 3: 16 *The Message*).

So there it is. You and I can have a life that is of a different order to the one we know now. The life on offer from God is whole and it lasts. This is the promise of a new life carrying on when this one ends, a special life in God's presence where we will be whole in every way. But, like the Premium Bonds, it is easy to miss out on this new life by simply ignoring what has been set aside for us in Jesus. The Good News is that we do not need a special ticket or number. The prize of heaven is offered to everyone, no matter who they are or what they have done. But the prize is of no use to us unless we claim it for ourselves. The place to begin is to recognise that the Babe of Bethlehem came to be your personal Saviour and Lord.

*We wish you a blessed
Christmas and a happy
and joyful New Year*

Arthur Childs

