

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

So, I recall hearing at one time or another that we may find that **“SMALL PACKAGES”** contain **“BIG GIFTS”!!!**

So, I begin to think, when it comes to the twelve months of the year February could be considered a very **“SMALL PACKAGE”!!!**

Well now, very early in the month of February we have something called “Ground Hog’s Day” which has something to do with the ground hog and its shadow and the length of winter, that doesn’t really seem like a very **“BIG GIFT”!!!**

Well now, February is also noted for the birthday days of two fairly famous presidents whose names would be George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. However I would suggest that we can look at any day in any month and find that there is someone’s birthday worthy of being celebrated, so as much as I may like George and Abe, this doesn’t really seem like a very **“BIG GIFT”!!!**

Well now, February is the only month of the year that has that extra day thrown in every four years, what do we call that; ah yes, Leap Year. However, February is already the shortest month of the year and adding one day each four years really doesn’t seem to change that fact, so neither does this seem like a very **“BIG GIFT”!!!**

Say now, doesn’t February also have something called Valentine’s Day? Ah yes, Valentine’s Day a special reminder and a special focus on **LOVE!!!** Now, **LOVE** is something to celebrate, **LOVE** is something to get behind, **LOVE** can take a **“SMALL PACKAGE”** and turn it into something of a very **“BIG GIFT”!!!**

Indeed, **LOVE** is something which can be celebrated in February but also in every other month, on every other day of the year, in every hour, minute, second, and moment of the day, the month, and year!!! Indeed, now we are talking about a **“SMALL PACKAGE”** and a **“BIG GIFT”!!!**

Ah yes a special reminder and a special focus from the gospel of John 3:16 ***“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.”***

Ah yes, a special reminder and a special focus from the gospel of John 15: 13-14, 15c, ***“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you....but I have called you friends because I have made known to you everything I have heard from my Father.”***

Wow, **LOVE** and the reminder of **GOD’S LOVE** for us as God’s children; wow, **LOVE** and the reminder of **JESUS’ LOVE** for us; that is a very **“BIG GIFT”!!!**

Wow, we have the opportunity to call **JESUS** friend!!! If we take the time to allow ourselves to be reminded of this we allow ourselves to be warmed by a very **“BIG GIFT”!!!**

Love in Christ,

Dana