

# What does the Lord require?

Offerings & Presents



Our theme today is based around a question:

What does the Lord require?

And we are going to consider this question by considering offerings and presents.

## Who or What lives here?



Who or what lives here? Any ideas?

Hobbits of course

Now Hobbits are an imaginary people from the Hobbit and Lord of the Rings books by JRR Tolkien and Hobbits in particular are a small and insignificant people who sometimes get caught up the great schemes and tales of their time and doing so manage extraordinary things.

In many ways I think that JRR Tolkien intended Hobbits to be a kind of parable for us. Ordinary people living ordinary lives but sometimes caught up to do amazing things.

# What things do Hobbits like?

Any Ideas?

❖ Food

❖ Beer

❖ Parties

Hopefully you got some of these:

❖ Pipe smoking

❖ Gardening

❖ Farming

❖ Presents

So What do Hobbits like?

Any ideas?

Pause for a moment and consider what things Hobbits actually like.

Hopefully you got some of these:

❖ Food

❖ Beer

❖ Parties

❖ Pipe smoking

❖ Gardening

❖ Farming

❖ Presents

❖ (Fireworks)

# Presents



When Hobbits have birthdays they have a tradition not to receive presents but to give presents.

They are not usually expensive and often not at all useful. But since everyone loves to receive a present it's a matter of great excitement.

Its very much the same at the Children's parties that we might know, where everyone goes home with a party bag full of goodies!

Now it was my birthday a couple of days ago and I have a present for everyone here. And a little bit later one we will give out and open our presents.

Now you are all interested!!

# Presents

Thinking about presents

If you could ask God for a present – What would you ask for?

Have you started your Christmas list yet?

Or maybe you have a birthday list

What do you have on yours?

So lets get back to presents

Have you started your Christmas list? (come on its never too early!)

Or maybe you have a birthday list?

What do you have on yours? Get a few suggestions from the congregation

If you could ask God for a present – what would you ask for? Get a few suggestions from the congregation.

In the Devotion we heard earlier, the writer says “ I asked for all things that I might enjoy life: I was given life that I might enjoy all things” “I got nothing that I asked for but everything that I hoped for “

Its time for presents – take one a wait and we will open our presents together

# What did you get?

What present did you get?

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life,

Are you pleased with your gift?

I was given life that I might enjoy all things

Is it useful?

Is it what you wanted or expected?

What did you get?

Something nice or useful?

Are you pleased with your present?

Remember the words of the devotion:

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life

I was given life that I might enjoy all things.

And we remember the gifts that God has given to us

Things that we mentioned earlier:

A healing

A miracle

A helping hand when we most needed it

And of course the greatest gift of all – Our Lord Jesus

And by believing in Him we have the gift of eternal life

A hope for the future

I got nothing that I asked for – but everything that I had hoped for.

# What will you give?

What will you give to God?

Love?

What does the Lord require of you?

Commitment?

Worship?

Everything?

Our reading asks the question:

**What will you give to God? And what does God require from us?  
Love? Commitment? Worship? Everything?**

At Christmas we sometimes sing the carol “in the Bleak Midwinter” words by Cristina Rossetti: The last verse of which goes like this:

What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

**This verse offers, as a solution , that we have nothing to offer but ourselves.**

# Sum Up

Give everything to God

Share God's Love with the world around you

Show by your example: That the key to life is a life given to Jesus.



So to sum up

Everything – what the Lord requires from us is to love Him with all our heart

- To be filled completely with His love
- And to share that love with the world around us
- Just as Hobbits we rejoice in giving gifts but not any gifts the only gift that really matters the gift of God's love that gives LIFE.
- And to show that by your example the key to life is a life given to Jesus.