Date: 5/6/17

Title: Gift Card

Theme: God offers us a “gift card” paid in full: forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

Object: Various gift cards still unused. Gift card from Jesus saying “Good for: Salvation and Eternal Life. Paid in Full by Your Friend, Jesus.

Text: Romans 6:23 (NKJV) For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is one of my favorite verses in the Bible.

It tells you the bad news; and it tells you the good news.

The bad news is that the wages of sin is death.

Since we have all disobeyed God’s commandments and have sinned, we all deserve eternal death.

But here’s the good news: the gift of God is eternal life if you believe in Jesus and have your sins forgiven by Him.

Do you like to get gifts?

I think everyone likes to get gifts.

The other night I was going through my desk, and I found some gifts that I had never used.

Do you want to see them?

[Show gift cards and coupons. Explain how they work. Somebody has paid for them and they are worth real money. If I don’t use them the money people spent for them will be wasted.]

These gift cards remind me of what Jesus did for us.

What’s the good news of our Bible verse again?

“The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

What a gift! That’s not just a meal at a restaurant or a book from a bookstore.

That’s eternal life with Jesus in heaven and in the earth made new.

That’s the opposite of eternal death that we deserve for our sins.

And it doesn’t cost us anything.

Jesus paid the full price of our salvation on the cross where He shed His blood and died for our sins.

So now if you love Jesus and trust in Him and tell Him you’re sorry and ask Him to forgive you, He will.

And He’ll give you a gift card kind of like this one.

Let’s see what it says: Good for: Salvation and eternal life instead of eternal death. Paid in full by your Friend, Jesus.

Jesus offers you this amazing gift.

You can choose to accept it or reject it, but He has already paid for our salvation and He wants you to be with Him forever.

How many want to accept the gift card of salvation that Jesus paid for Himself?

This is one card we don’t want to put in our desk and forget.

Let’s choose every day to accept the gift of salvation that Jesus offers us.