"Those who accept Christ will receive a true forever stamp."

## **Forever Stamp**

When I was a teenager, I used to collect both US and foreign stamps. I used plastic window holders and matched them up with the pictures in the book. I would spend hours sorting, keeping track of the costs and sometimes trading or buying with others. Someone called me a philatelist and I thought it was a bad word. A <a href="Sweden stamp">Sweden stamp</a>, which I wish I had, sold for \$2,300,000, in 2010. You can now customize usable US postal stamps with your own designs and photos (click to see app).

In postal history, Ben Franklin was the first Postmaster General in 1775. The first US postage stamps were issued in 1853. It used to be legal to send kids in the mail. At least two people sent their stamp covered children through the mail before the Postmaster General was able to issue new regulations banning the practice. Click to see picture. Until 1950, mail was delivered twice a day. In 1971, Apollo15 delivered mail to the moon. In 2014, the US Postal Service reported a \$5.5 billion fiscal loss, which was the eighth consecutive year with large losses. They have become known as snail mail and cannot compete against e-mail, online bill paying, Twitter, Instagram, and Face Book. The Postal Service has recently been approved to deliver groceries (bread, eggs, etc. with your mail). They already partnered with UPS packages, Staples sales, and Amazon with Sunday deliveries. Believe or not, the borough, where we and the Governor live, does not have home delivery of mail.

The first <u>non-value indicator stamp</u> was a 1975 Christmas stamp valued at 10 cents. Then, there were A thru H stamps with no value indicator but were only good for a short time period. Then in 2007, the first US Forever Stamp was made. At first, the idea brought in a lot of sales. But as the price of stamps went up, people were using the ones they bought at the lower cost.

But the Forever Stamp is really a misleading name. You cannot use the stamp over and over again. After it is cancelled, it cannot be used again. It is thrown in the trash and perishes in the continuous fire of an incinerator. It should really be named:

"Can be used regardless of future price increases, but only one time on a standard size letter envelope, and after that use please discard properly. Offer valid only as long as Post Office is in business stamp."

The word "Forever" on the stamp can be a great evangelism tool. I have asked people: "Are you going to be like this stamp? When your one time short human life is over, will you go to the fire that never ends or will you have a forever life in Heaven? Jesus already paid the price for this male to go air mail. I proudly wear His Forever stamp. So can you."



This forever is over.

Charles L Stambaugh
Mt Wolf, PA 5/2015

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16



This forever is forever.

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