

THE GIFT OF GOD

VARIOUS

Text: 2 Cor. 9:17; Acts 8:20; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8-9

2 Corinthians 9:15

¹⁵ Thanks *be* unto God for his unspeakable gift.

Acts 8:20

²⁰ But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Introduction:

Much is said and spent on gifts during this time of the year. However the greatest gift that has ever been purchased and given is the gift that Paul refers to as an unspeakable gift. It's the gift of God.

Notice:

1. PURPOSE

1 John 3:8

⁸ He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

A. To Provide For All People Hope and Assurance

2 Thessalonians 2:16

¹⁶ Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

B. To Defeat Satan Once and For All

Hebrews 2:14-15

¹⁴ Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; ¹⁵ And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

C. To Wash Away the Stain of Sin

Isaiah 1:18

¹⁸ Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

D. To Present Us Clean and Holy Before the Father

Ephesians 5:27

²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

2. PRECIOUSNESS

1 Peter 2:6-7

⁶ Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. ⁷ Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

1 John 4:10

¹⁰ Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

A. The Love of Christ Made Calvary Possible

John 15:13

¹³ Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

1 John 3:16

¹⁶ Hereby perceive we the love *of God*, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

B. The Love of Christ Provided For Us the Necessary Righteousness

Isaiah 64:6

⁶ But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities,

like the wind, have taken us away.

2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹ For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

C. The Love of Christ is Beyond Our Knowledge

Ephesians 3:19

¹⁹ And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

3. PRICE

1 Corinthians 7:23

²³ Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

This price that was paid for the redemption of our souls was the very best that God could give.

A. It cost the Heavenly Father

John 3:16

¹⁶ 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.

1. It cost Him the sacrifice of His only begotten Son!

2. He did not spare His Son in an effort to save us from our sins!

B. It Cost the Son

Philippians 2:5-8

⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

1. It cost Him the leaving the glory and majesty in Heaven with the Father.
2. It cost Him ridicule and humiliation.
3. It cost Him an earthly life of servitude.
4. It cost Him suffering and death on the cross.

Illustration:

Someone once said:

It is Christ. It is not thy hold on Christ that saves thee

It is Christ. It is not thy joy in Christ that saves thee,

It is Christ. It is not even thy faith, Though that be the instrument, It is Christ's blood and merit.

Someone told the story of a coal miner:

He came to a preacher and said, "I would give anything to believe that God would forgive my sins, but I cannot believe that He will forgive them if I just ask Him. It is too cheap."

The preacher responded, "My dear friend, have you been working today?"

"Yes, I was down in the mine."

"How did you get out of the pit? Did you have to pay?"

"Of course not. I just got into the cage and was pulled to the top."

"Were you not afraid to entrust yourself to that cage? Was it not too cheap?" the preacher asked.

"Oh no," said the miner, "it was cheap for me, but it cost the company a lot of money to sink the shaft."

Suddenly the truth struck him: that grace is not cheap; that though salvation costs us nothing, it cost God the precious blood of His Son.

Illustration:

Christ was content with a stable when he was born so that we could have a mansion when we die.

It cost Mary and Joseph the comforts of home during a long period of exile in Egypt to protect the little babe.

It cost mothers, in and around Bethlehem, the massacre of their babies by the cruel order of Herod.

It cost the shepherds the complacency of their shepherd's life, with the call to the manger and to tell the good news.

It cost the early Apostles and the early church persecution and sometimes death.

It cost Christian martyrs in all ages their lives for Christ's sake.

More than all this, it cost God the Father His own Son— He sent Him to the earth to save men. It cost Jesus a life of sacrifice and service, a death cruel and unmatched in history.

4. PROMISE

Romans 10:9-10

⁹That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the

dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:13

¹³ For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

John 6:37-40

³⁷ All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. ³⁸ For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. ³⁹ And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. ⁴⁰ And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

A. Confirmed by His Plan (vs. 39-40a)

God's plan is to save the sinner by "grace through faith". When lost people come to Jesus for salvation, God will save them. When He saves them, He saves them for time and eternity.

B. Confirmed by His Promise (vs. 40b)

Jesus tells all those who trust Him that they are safe in this world and in the world to come. If you are saved, you are saved forever!

- We are kept by His power – 1 Pet. 1:5

1 Peter 1:5

⁵ Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- We are promised “everlasting life” – John 3:16; John 5:24

John 3:16

¹⁶ 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 5:24

²⁴ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

- We are promised “eternal life” – John 10:28; 1 John 2:25

John 10:28

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

1 John 2:25

²⁵ And this is the promise that he hath promised us, *even* eternal life.

- We are promised that we will “never perish” – John 10:28

John 10:28

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

- We are promised that we cannot be “plucked out” of His hand – John 10:28-29

John 10:28-29

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

Close:

Thank God for the gift of God, a Gift that truly indescribable.