

Title: God's Indescribable Gift

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:15

Series: Topical

1. Introduction –

- a. Our verse often appears on Christmas cards with the message that God has given us the gift of his Son.
- b. No one questions the truth of this message, but those readers who take the time to look at the context of this verse immediately notice that Paul says nothing about the birth of Jesus.
 - i. The context of the chapter is quite simple. Paul is sending fellow believers to the Corinthians to collect the love offering that the Corinthians had promised for the needful believers in Jerusalem.
 - ii. In this chapter Paul reminds the Corinthians of two truths involved in alms giving:
 1. First, the Corinthians like all Christians should be ready to give and bless the believers that are in need. This is the testing of our faithfulness to the second great commandment.
 2. Secondly, God rewards the giving to others if that giving comes from the appropriate heart attitude. This is the testing of our faithfulness to the first great commandment.
- c. However, the aim of the last verse is to cause the Christian to consider that compared to God's great gift of His son, all our giving is inconsequential. The Christian must greatly admire the graciousness of

God. God gives the singular most precious gift ever to be given.

i. God has given the gift that is beyond all description; He has given His son!

1. This is the thought expressed in **John**

3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

a. We see that it was love that prompted God’s giving.

ii. The greatness of the gift is further enriched in value when we consider that God gave His gift while humanity was completely undeserving; warped and perverted in sin!

1. Consider the following truth expressed in

Ephesians 2:3(b)-5 we...were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, (5) even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

2. This same thought is also echoed in

Romans 5:6-8 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. (7) For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— (8) but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

d. Beloved, in the midst of our giving to others, let us be reminded that God the Father has given us His blessed Son. This gift is for the ransoming of our sinfully lost souls. We are bound to gratefully praise the God who gives His Son for our sins! We are commanded to worship! Listen to the angelic declaration recorded for us in Luke:

- i. **Luke 2:10-11** And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. (11) For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

2. Verse 15: The Gift of God Should Illicit Our Praise:

Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

- a. Paul closes the chapter with a doxology, “**Thanks be to God.**”
 - i. It is true that God receives the worship that is due Him for his providence in making the collection a blessing to the entire church. Both the recipients and the giver are equally blessed with the giving of the gift.
- b. However, what causes Paul to greatly rejoice in gratitude to God is the “**indescribable gift**” of Jesus Christ. The doxology expresses the wonder at the grandeur of the gift of love given by God.
 - i. The apostle John writes about this immeasurable love as well.
 1. **1 John 4:9** In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his

only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

- c. This **gift** of God to the world is Jesus Christ. It is in Jesus, that salvation is possible. It is in Jesus that completely corrupt human beings can experience the blessedness of forgiveness in the new birth.
- d. The **gift** of Christ encompasses many truths. This is why the Apostle calls it **indescribable**. Simply put beloved, we can consider all the truths of the incarnation and yet never truly comprehend the enormity of it all. To prove this point, let us consider the following a six aspects that are involved in the **gift of God**.
 - i. The Incarnation of the Son of God:
 - 1. The gifting of the Son brings us face to face with the fact that Jesus becomes one of us! The perfect, second person of the trinity condescends and becomes a man. By this incarnation, Christ is able to live the life of obedience to the Law that is required for the showing of grace and mercy.
 - 2. **Isaiah 9:6** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 - ii. The Ministry of the Son of God:
 - 1. The gifting of the Son brings us face-to-face with the work of Christ. It is that work in which we find the heart, character, and love of the Father as modeled to us by Jesus

Himself. In studying His ministry, we begin to see the Father as He is.

2. **John 14:8-11** Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” (9) Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? (10) Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. (11) Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

iii. The Suffering of the Son of God:

1. Inherit in God’s gift is the truth that the Son of God would by necessity suffer in substitution. The holiness of God requires the punishing of every sin. God must be true to his character. Therefore, Christ is given in substitute. He bears our sins and accepts the punishment we deserve. He is able to fully pay what we owe because of His perfect law keeping.
2. **Isaiah 53:4-6** Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. (5) But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our

iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. (6) All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

3. **1 Peter 2:24** He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed (quotes Isaiah 53).
4. **2 Corinthians 5:21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

iv. The Death of the Son of God:

1. The gift of God comes with the certainty of the death of the Son. Christ tastes death so that we do not have to!
2. **Mark 10:45** For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
3. **John 10:11** I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
4. **1 Thessalonians 5:9-10** For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, (10) who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.

v. The Resurrection of the Son of God:

1. The gift includes the certainty of the resurrection of the Son. This resurrection from the dead guarantees each believer's eventual resurrection. We are not forever bound to these corrupt bodies but are promised a resurrection day in which we will be clothed in perfect immortality.
 2. **John 11:25-26** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, (26) and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"
 3. **1 Corinthians 15:20-22** But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (21) For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. (22) For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.
- vi. The Second Advent of the Son of God:
1. The gift of God also includes the promise of glorification. It is a promise made to each believer.
 2. **John 14:1-3** "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (2) In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? (3) And if I go and prepare a place for

you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

- e. In our brief meditation of these six aspects of God's Gift of His son, we are left dumbfounded. What words can express the gratitude the people of God are bound to render to the King of Heaven? What song can we sing?
 - f. We have not, in the list above, exhaustively considered the depth of God's gift to us.
 - i. There are other aspects that we could further consider.
 1. Union with Christ
 2. Union with His Church
 3. The indwelling of the Spirit of God.
 4. The ability to partake with the Holy Spirit of God.
 5. The usefulness for ministry made possible by the regeneration.
 6. The Christlikeness that makes sanctification a possibility.
 - ii. As we consider these truths and a million other truths about the reality of the incarnation, we must concur with Paul. The gifting of the Son of God is **indescribable**.
3. For Paul, the thought of God giving his Son to mankind is astounding. In his time, Paul sees the glorious results in the faith both Jew and Gentile placed in Jesus Christ, in the breaking down of racial barriers, and in the unity of the Christian church as evidenced by the predominantly gentile

church in Corinth sending aid to the predominantly Jewish church in Jerusalem.

- a. What about today? What is the gifting of the Son of God doing today in our world?
 - i. Presently the church of Jesus Christ is spanning the globe, so that every place we can find Christians gathering and worshiping the Lord. Believers meet in cathedrals, churches, chapels, private homes, a variety of other buildings, forests, caves, and hidden places. By means of the airwaves, the printed page, and the spoken word, the gospel goes forth throughout the world and accomplishes the purpose for which God has sent it.
 1. **Isaiah 55:11** so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
- b. In other words, the Gift of God is still rescuing sinners. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is still impacting this world.

4. We see God's indescribable gift, namely, his Son Jesus Christ, in the development and progress of the church. In his lifetime, Paul saw God's kingdom advancing from Jerusalem to Rome and parts of the Roman Empire.

- a. In our times, we witness its worldwide growth, power, and influence.

- b. Paul called attention to God's inexpressible gift of salvation and gave thanks. With him, we too express our gratitude to God for the coming of his Son.
- c. On this earth we will never be able to fathom the depth of God's love for us, the infinite value of our salvation, and the gift of eternal life. Again, God's gift indeed is indescribable!

5. Gospel presentation:

6. Benediction:

- a. **Luke 1:46-47** And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, (47) and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

Public Reading
Luke 1:46-55