

## *Morning Sermon December 22, 2019*

### *"God's Indescribable Gift" 2 Corinthians 8:9 & 9:15*

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16 (NKJV)

#### *I. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Holy Trinity's (God's) Indescribable Gift to lost mankind –*

<sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15 (NKJV)

1. *Jesus is the Indescribable gift from the Godhead to us – Indescribable here means wonderful beyond preaching, beyond writing, beyond even song or poetry!*

*Yet, while Jesus as a Gift to us is beyond preaching, the command to be thankful to God for such a Gift, excites us to try preaching on the topic anyway ... Let us try to express the inexpressible, let us search to the depth we can go! Let us fly as God's Spirit might take us, reach to the heights to know what we might know!*

2. *As it is an expression beyond words, let it inspire our actions ... In chapters 8 & 9 of 2 Corinthians Paul was asking the Corinthians to take an offering for poor persecuted Jewish Christians in Jerusalem:*

- A. *It might endear Jewish believers to their Gentile counterparts, whom they QUESTIONED –*
- B. *It was the right thing to do, in light of God's gift to them, one of the points of God's giving is that He is an example for ours –*
- C. *This passage about giving starts with a verse describing Christ's own self-sacrifice –*

<sup>9</sup> For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:9 (NKJV)

3. *God's giving of His Son, involved Christ's giving of Himself, in His incarnation –*

<sup>9</sup> For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor... 2 Corinthians 8:9 A

- A. *The best any of can ever give another, is ourselves, our heart, our all –*
- B. *God gave Himself when the Eternal Son of God became a human being:*

#### Question 4 of the Westminster Shorter Catechism - What is God?

God is a Spirit (John 4:24) infinite (Job 11:7–9) eternal (Psalm 90:2) and unchangeable (James 1:17) in his being (Exodus 3:14) wisdom (Psalm 147:5) power (Revelation 4:8) holiness (Deuteronomy 32:4) justice goodness, and truth. (Exodus 34:6–7)

*Jesus was and is all these things and more!*

- *He Who was worshipped by angels, would be slighted, and not noticed by men –*

<sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (NKJV)

- *His Father, and He Himself knew how He would be treated by sinful men, and yet He was given to and for them (us) anyway –*

<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

- *He Who was almighty, took on flesh, He Who was infinite, took the body of an infant, before that a fetus; He was made like us, that He might suffer for us –*

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. Hebrews 2:17 (NKJV)

**II. Our salvation is a great gift, but Jesus Himself is the greater, indescribable Gift, because He attained for us and gave us salvation –**

1. This is the reason for which He was born, the reason He is called Jesus, meaning Jehovah saves –

<sup>21</sup> And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 (NKJV)

2. He was born for our salvation but also was humiliated and died a cruel death for our salvation –

<sup>21</sup> For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

3. It is interesting and telling, John the Baptist, Who recognizes and rejoices in the presence of Jesus, while both were babies in their mother's wombs –

<sup>44</sup> For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. Luke 1:44 (NKJV)

Does not recognize Jesus immediately, when both adults, and when Jesus comes to John to be baptized ...

<sup>31</sup> I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water." <sup>32</sup> And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. <sup>33</sup> I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' John 1:31–33 (NKJV)

Why did not John recognize Jesus immediately?

- A. Jesus gave up all obvious glory, He looked like an ordinary man
- B. Jesus stood in line with SINNERS to be baptized, though He did not need it for Himself –

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. Matthew 3:13–15 (NKJV)

4. Jesus saves us from Hell, not only are we saved from Hell, but from sin –

<sup>10</sup> he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. <sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." Revelation 14:10–11 (NKJV) see also Matthew 1:21

5. Jesus will bring us to Heaven –

<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." " Revelation 21:3–4 (NKJV)

6. Heaven / Eternal Life is a right relationship with God, Jesus brings us into that –

<sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6 (NKJV)

7. The sweetest gift is Jesus, we become the Lamb's bride, intimacy with God, righteousness, purity, glory ...

<sup>9</sup> Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." Revelation 21:9 (NKJV)

**III. In these things we have reason to give thanks, and to be giving people ourselves -**

<sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God ... 2 Corinthians 9:15

My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. 1 John 3:18 (NKJV)

These words are not against preaching, rather they are for preaching, plus LIVING - <sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. James 1:22 (NKJV)

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