

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Evening

Christmas Day

25th December 2022

Rev Philip Knowles, Ps/Hymns Ps 81, 82, 85, Read: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Text: 2
Corinthians 9:15 Title – God's Unspeakable Gift

In **2 Corinthians chapter 9**, the Apostle Paul refers to the church at Corinth as a giving church.

A Church that is liberal in their giving to the Lord's work. Their generosity was bountiful, they gave gifts for the furtherance of the gospel

The blessing of giving unto the Lord, would result in greater blessings, as shown in **verse 6** *He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.*

It was as Paul said to the churches in **Galatians 6:9** *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap*

You can never out give God, and you will never lose out when you give unto God in His work.

As Paul looks to the future of the work, he encourages and instructs, the Lord's people to continue in their giving unto God, a **verse 7** states *for God loveth a cheerful giver*. The word **cheerful** can mean *hilarious, laughter*.

The overall thought is *to give cheerfully, merry, joyfully, with smiling faces*. That is interesting because before these words in **verse 7** we read *so let him give not grudgingly, or of necessity, for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

The word, **grudgingly**, means **sadness, grief, pain, sorrow, reluctantly**, whereas the words **of necessity**, refer to giving without thought, heart, joy, love and requirement.

Therefore, give with joy, with heart, **with a smiling face**.

As Paul concludes his instruction, he does by directing believers to focus upon the greatest giver and the greatest gift ever given, **verse 15**, **Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift**.

Paul motivates God's people not to give **grudgingly, or of necessity**, but cheerfully because the second half of **Romans 6:23** states **"...the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord**. Jesus Christ Himself is eternal life.

That's why when God gave His Son the Lord Jesus Christ to fallen men and woman to be the Saviour of sinners, God did not give Christ, **grudgingly, or of necessity, but cheerfully, joyfully, willingness**.

God gave up and gave over His Son, as a gift to be received.

God's unspeakable gift is the Jesus Christ.

I FIRST THE GIVER

verse 15, **Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift**.

Just at the Corinthians gave a gift or gifts, then they understood the language when God said **Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift**.

Throughout the passage, Paul makes much of God giving. Verse 8 "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

Verse 9 “...*He hath given to the poor...*” **verse 11** “ *Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness...*” Paul emphasis on the God giving.

God’s giving moved the song writer **Annie Johnston Flint** to write, *for out of His infinite riches in Jesus, He giveth, and giveth and giveth again* (Hymn 458)

James 1:17 “*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*”

Isaiah 9:6 *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

John 3:16 “*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.*”

Romans 8:32 “*He that spared not His own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*”

1 John 4:9 “*In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.*”

When God gave His Son, He gave His best. God is the ultimate Generous Giver.

God as it were bankrupt heaven to give this world not only His unspeakable gift but also unsearchable riches.

When God gave His Son, His Gift of eternal life, He gave a gift for a particular occasion, a time in view that called for the gift.

When God gave His Son, His Gift was suited for the receiver.

When God gave His Son, His Gift was because He chose to do so.

When God gave His Son, His Gift was because we were in need of One.

Let me illustrate this way, December is the particular time or occasion where some give a gift to another person, it may be because of Christmas, or their birthday falls in December, they get married in December, or to a child is born, but the point is the occasion calls for the gift and the giver gives the gift suited to that person and that time.

The gift given is what the receiver does not have but needs.

But in giving the gift the giver chooses to do so. You choose to buy someone a gift.

Now lift your mind heavenward, God gave His unspeakable gift the Lord Jesus Christ, because of the occasion that the sin of men and woman have separated them from God, and due to their sin, naturally men and woman are undeserving of God's gift.

If there was no sin then there would be no need for God's unspeakable Gift, Jesus Christ.

By nature, we are born under the wrath and the condemnation of God. There is none naturally righteousness, none have earned favour with God.

This then is the difference, a person gives another person a gift because they deserve it, **However, God gave His Gift, though we did not deserve it.**

In fact if God was to give any man or woman what they truly deserve it would be eternal punishment.

None deserve Christ and all the blessings Christ is.

The gift of salvation is not deserving but receiving.

God is the Giver, and He sent His Son, the Holy One who was born of the virgin, and that same One who on the cross at Calvary died by not taking our righteousness upon Him for we had not, but all our sin was laid on Him. He shed His blood to give us eternal life, to secure full deliverance, to guarantee a home in Heaven

II SECOND THE GIFT

verse 15, Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.

God's gift is unspeakable

The word **unspeakable** means **indescribable.**

There are no words to describe this gift.

This word, “unspeakable” with this meaning is not used anywhere else in Scripture.

You see Paul was looking for words to describe the gift of God, to detail what eternal life really is, but there were no words which were suitable.

The entire vocabulary of language was not sufficient to put this gift into words. So Paul says, God's gift is unspeakable

We would say, I'm lost for words, I'm speechless, you took the words right out of my mouth, because the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, is a gift so good, so great, so wonderful that it cannot be described.

It is indescribable, it is unspeakable because no other gift brings such happiness and pleasure to all those who receive it.

To the soul who is saved by Gods grace – the joy of sins forgiven, the pleasure and happiness of knowing that we are secure in Christ, saved from our sin, never to be lost in Hell, never to be cast out from Gods presence such and experience which can never be put into words.

Whatever other gifts we may receive this season, week or year, none of them will compare to the gift of eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

His gift cannot be compared to any other gift. Was ever a gift like the Saviour given no not one. There is none like unto Him. There is not that can be compared to Him.

Christ is glory to God in the highest. He alone is peace on earth.

He and He alone pardons, protects, preserves, provides all we need in life and for eternity.

Other gifts break, they get lost, lose their value, wear out.

But God's gift Jesus Christ is eternal.

Money may pay for many gifts that are earth bound, but money can never pay for God's unspeakable gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

The price of sins forgiven is of infinite value. The cost is expensive, the debt of sin is too much to pay.

Peter said in **1 Peter 1:18-19** “...***that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold... But with the precious blood of Christ...***”

The greatest news and joy for the world, was that a Saviour was Born who is Christ the Lord.

He humbled Himself, and came into this world, taking into union with His deity a true, a real humanity, to be obedient unto death even the death of the cross.

He was rejected, despised and forsaken. Yet bearing shame and slander, He offered His life to honour God as an offering to bear the sentence of eternal punishment and take away sin.

His life is perfect and virtuous, His blood precious of infinite value. Jesus Christ paid the price of sin, He paid the debt owed to God for all who believe on Him.

Christ is God's unspeakable gift.

I THE GIVER & II THE GIFT

III THIRD, THE GRATITUDE.

verse 15, ***Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.***

Remember, this is a passage about action, giving. It is saying I'll give and then the action of giving.

Giving thanks to God for Christ, His unspeakable gift is both by lip and life. By speech and actions.

How can we give our gratitude to God? how can we give thanks ***unto God for His unspeakable gift.***

Well how do you give and show thanks when a gift is given to you?

You give thanks to God by Receiving the gift.

One must give a gift, and then another to receive it.

When a gift is received that gift belongs to the receiver. Its their possession. They claim it as their own.

When you received God's gift Jesus Christ who is eternal life, He belongs you to, and you belong to Him. He is your God and you are His child.

The reliever can say I am my beloved and my beloved is mine. You have received peace with God, sins fully, freely and forever forgiven.

Have you received God's gift as your gift?

You give thanks to God by Responding to the gift

When a person is given a gift, they ought to say thank you to the giver or for the gift. There ought to be acknowledgment, gratefulness, thankfulness.

Believer have you taken time to give thanks unto God for giving you His son to live and die to take away your sins.

Giving you a new life, securing for you a new home in heaven.

In **Matthew 2**, the wise men responded the gift, they came from afar, and said in **verse 2** "**we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship Him**

You give thanks to God by Rejoicing in the gift

When a gift is received it brings rejoicing. Whether it's clothes, playing with toys, reading the book. There is joy.

We give thanks to God by rejoicing in Christ, rejoicing in His persona and Salvation as Mary said in **Luke 1:46-47** **And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, ⁴⁷ And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour**

You give thanks to God by Remembering the gift-

Have you ever looked at a gift given you can remember where you where, who gave it.

Some can remember the last gift received from someone before the giver died.

They remember it, reflect upon it.

Maybe you look through items in the house and you come across the gift and you say ah I remember this, you recall the history.

We give thanks to God by remembering Christ, as our sinless, sacrificial and success Saviour. We remember His life and sufferings.

We recall the Bible passages, He loved me and gave Himself for me. in **1 Timothy 1:12-15**, Paul testifies of God's grace in Christ, and He said **I thank my God.... Christ Jesus came into the world to saved sinners whom I am chief.**

You give thanks to God by Republishing the gift-

when the gift is received in excitement we republish it to others, we tell who gave the gift, what it is, what it does, how

it looks, where to get one! it was one sale, go and see, there is joy to make it known.

We give thanks to God for His unspeakable gift Jesus Christ our Saviour why republishing, by sharing, tell others with joy about Him, and what He has done for us by His death, and what He is doing for us now in heaven praying and what He is yet to do when He returns to gather all who have received Him as Lord and Saviour, to be forever with Him.

Think of Anna in **Luke 2:38** *And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem*

Speak of Christ today, tell other what great things He has done for you and how he had compassion on you.

Will take God's unspeakable gift, Jesus Christ as your gift of eternal life today.

This God's unspeakable gift, Jesus Christ, may we give thanks unto Him.