

The Greatest Gift - 12/25/22

TEXT – 2 Corinthians 9:15 *Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.*

INTRO – Paul closes the chapter with a word of praise. He has been writing about giving, and his heart has been so filled with God’s goodness to him that he shouts, “Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift!” This gift is, of course, the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, and His gift of eternal life.

I. The Greatest Gift is the Gift of Eternal Life

His unspeakable gift - The word used here ἀνεκδιήγητο *anekdiēgēto* means, unutterable. It occurs nowhere else in the New Testament. The idea is, that no words can properly express the greatness of the gift thus bestowed on man. It is higher than the mind can conceive; higher than language can express.

Psalms 61:2 *From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.*

Psalms 89:27 *Also I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth.*

A. That the Saviour is a gift to mankind. So he is uniformly represented; **1 Timothy 2:6** *Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.* **Galatians 1:4** *Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:*

The sending of the Saviour into the world, and all the benefits resulting from his work, are all an undeserved gift to man.

B. This is a gift unspeakably great, whose value no language can express, no heart fully conceive. It is so because:

1. Of his own greatness and glory;

Psalms 19:1-3 *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.*

2. Because of the inexpressible love which he evinced;

Romans 5:8 *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

3. Because of the unutterable sufferings which he endured;

Isaiah 53:3-11 *He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows . . .*

4. Because of the great benefits which result from his work.

a. **Jesus’ death on the cross gives us free access to the most holy place**

b. **Jesus’ death on the cross gives us victory over sin**

c. **Jesus’ death on the cross brings us healing and forgiveness**

d. **Jesus’ death on the cross frees us from condemnation**

C. We owe him our highest praises for this.

1. Because it was mere benevolence in God. We had no claim; we could not compel him to grant us a Saviour.

2. Because of the benefits which we have received from him. All our peace and hope; all our comfort and joy in this life; all our prospect of pardon and salvation; all the offers of eternal glory are to be traced to him. “Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.”

II. We Must Be A Thankful People

2 Corinthians 9:15 *Thanks be unto God*

What does Christ mean to you?

Is He your all in all?

1 John 4:19 *We love him, because he first loved us.*

1 John 2:15 *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

That means we love God, the things of God, His church, and the people of God and to witness to a lost world.

That means we do not love the world, the things of the world, the people of the world, or the trends of the world.

Jesus loved sinners. Do we?

Luke 19:10 *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

CONCL – Song by child prodigy Gloria Roe: Gloria was a child prodigy in piano, playing at Carnegie Hall at age 11. She released multiple albums with Word Records for over 30 years. She played for the Billy Graham Crusades and performed for several U.S. Presidents

Does it make any difference to you? Does it make any difference to you? If a soul dies in sin, God has told you to win, Will it make any difference to you? Will his blood be required at thy hand? Do you warn as He planned? Do you maker plain the way? Do you work while it’s day? Is the Lord working daily through you?

When we meet on that wonderful shore And the trials of life are all o’er, Will you find there a soul Whom the Savior made whole? Will it make any difference to you? Will His blood be required at thy hand? Do you warn the lost as He planned? Won’t you make plain the way? Won’t you work while it’s day? Does it make any difference to you?