

HANDOUT DECEMBER 11 "A Gift Beyond Description" 2 Corinthians 9:15-9:15

Have You Ever Received a Gift that Was Indescribable? In 2 Cor. 9:15 there is a short verse, The apostle Paul under the direction of God the Holy Spirit writes, ***Thanks Be Unto God For His "Indescribable Gift."***

In 2 Corinthians 9, Paul at First is Writing About Human Gifts. The church in Corinth is taking up offerings to give to the poor Christians in Jerusalem. He commends them for their help and reminds them that those who sow sparingly will also reap sparingly, but that those who Sow Generously Will Reap Generously.

Then Paul shifts his Attention from Human Gifts to God's Gift of sending Jesus to earth for us...And he Cannot Find Words to Describe That. He simply says, ***"Thanks be to God for His "Indescribable Gift."***

When Paul says, "Thanks be Unto God for His "Indescribable Gift."...there are at Least 4 Reasons that It Is Indescribable!

First, Paul Calls Jesus "Indescribable" BECAUSE...OF HIS NATURE. How Do You Describe Jesus? What Words Would You Choose? How do You Describe a Baby Born of a Virgin? How do you Describe God in Flesh, Jesus, Walking Upon Our Earth and Reaching Out to the Hurting Masses of Humanity?

Isaiah said He would be called Emanuel, "God With Us." How do You Describe That? What Words Would You Choose? **Paul says...We CANNOT...WORDS ARE NOT ADEQUATE.**

Many of the wisest men in the world have tried to describe Jesus. Listen to the Council of Chalcedon in 451 A.D. The Greatest Theological Minds of the Time Came Together and Tried to Describe Jesus.

Here is Their Description: --"Perfect in Godhead & also Perfect in Manhood. --Truly Man of a Reasonable, Rational Soul and Body. --Consubstantial, Co-essential with the Father, and according to the manhood, In All Things like Unto Us Without Sin. --Begotten Before All Ages of the Father According to the Godhead. --And in these Latter Times for Us and for Our Salvation, Born of the Virgin Mary and of the Mother of God. --According to the Manhood - One and the Same Christ, Son, Lord, Only Begotten to be Acknowledged in Two Natures. --In-confusedly, Unchangeably, Indivisibly, Inseparably and the Distinction of Natures being by No Means taken Away by the Union, But Rather the Property of Each Nature Being Preserved."

That's Man's Attempt to Describe the Indescribable! Even when we Bring Together Man's Greatest Minds and Our Most Extensive Vocabularies...WE CANNOT ADEQUATLY DESCRIBE JESUS!

2: THE GIFT IS INDESCRIBABLE BECAUSE OF HIS PURPOSE IN COMING TO EARTH The Angels said to the Shepherds, *"Unto you is born this day in the City of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord."*

- What We Celebrate at Christmas is the Fact that Jesus Came Into Our World to Save Us...To Redeem Us Back to Our Broken Relationship with God!
- God Knew All Mankind Needed Saving...He Saw Man's Inhumanity to his fellow man.
- ***The Hopes of World Peace brought about by the break-up of the Soviet Union have been Shattered by Civil Wars...And the War that Continues Today!***

We may have Peace Treaties Between the Great Powers, But these Treaties Will Never Ensure Peace Because the Nature of Man Has NOT CHANGED!

- When God Looked at Our World He Knew that Our Greatest Need is Not for More Wealth, Nor Better Schools...Not Even a Better Welfare System. Our Greatest Need is A Savior.

There Will Never Be Peace on Earth Until Men Have Been Lifted Out of Their Sin, Their Hearts Changed and Their Way of Thinking Changed Because Jesus has Become their Lord and Savior Living In Their Lives.

- Our Greatest Need is to be Saved from the Very Flames of Hell, itself...How Do You Describe That?

Jesus, God's gift, is Indescribable...First...Because of His Nature. Secondly... Because of His Purpose in Coming to Earth...And Thirdly...Because of the Grace by Which Jesus is Given.

Paul says in Romans Chapter 5:8 "*While we were yet in our sin, while we were yet the enemies of God, Christ Died on the Cross for Us.*"

Too Often We Give Gifts to Those Loved Ones and Friends for Whom We Feel Obligated. God's Indescribable Gift was NOT Given Because He Felt "Obligated to Give a Gift" BUT...Because His Love is So Overwhelming...It's a GIFT OF GRACE!

This Christmas When You Look into the Manger at Bethlehem and look at the Christ child, You Must Realize that He is a Gift of Grace. **(The Unmerited Favor of God!)**

KEY: There are No Words Adequate Enough to Describe God's Grace Towards Us in Jesus...**Jesus, God's gift, is Indescribable... 1) Because of His Nature. 2) Because of His Purpose in Coming to Earth... 3) Because of the Grace by Which Jesus is Given.**

And Lastly: God's Gift to Us is INDESCRIBABLE...BECAUSE OF HIS EFFECT ON US

Consider This>>>When You Open Your Gifts this Christmas will Your Life be Different?

- Most of Us Would Agree that We Will be the Same as We have Always Been!

However...God's Word Makes Clear that When We Accept Jesus, the Indescribable Gift of God, We Will Never Be the Same Again Because of How He [CHANGES] Our Life!

The Effect of Jesus Coming into Our Life and Our Obedience to Him is that We are Forgiven of Our Sins.

- ***When Our Sins are Forgiven, God Forgets Them And He Remembers Them No More!!***
- When you accept Jesus You Are Adopted into His family and *You are Guaranteed Citizenship in His Kingdom...NO Longer a foreigner...Separated from God.*

Everything that Belongs to Jesus Also Belongs to You...All Because You Accepted His "Indescribable Gift".

You are also given His Perfect Peace...NOT the Peace of the World...BUT the Peace of GOD that Passes All Understanding.

- Gods Perfect Peace that Allows You to Cope with Everyday Situations.
- *God's Peace that Allows You to Look Beyond All the Adversities and Difficulties of Our World to See God's Perfect Plan that He Has for You in the Midst of Them!*

And...Because of Jesus Your Mansion in Heaven is Paid For...An Indescribable Dwelling Place that Will Last for All Eternity.

I Knew when I Began this Sermon that I Would Fail in My Attempt to Describe Jesus Because Even the Apostle Paul Was NOT Able to Accomplish It!

The Apostle Paul looked at Jesus & said, "I Can't Describe Him...All I Can Do is Fall On My Knees and Thank God for His "Indescribable Gift."

MAY THAT BE OUR RESPONSE THIS CHRISTMAS AS WELL...TO FALL ON OUR KNEES AND THANK GOD FOR HIS INDESCRIBABLE GIFT THAT WILL LAST THROUGOUT ALL ETERNITY!

POINT: I Can Not Describe God's Gift...But Daily I Will be Thankful For It!