

## GOD'S INDESCRIBABLE GIFT

[jkroberts\\_us@yahoo.com](mailto:jkroberts_us@yahoo.com)

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I Corinthians 1:18-31, II Corinthians 9:15

1. Last week my message was titled, "The Tyranny of Self and Things."
2. In the message we saw that man has dethroned God and enthroned self and things.
3. God's remedy for this situation is found in the person of Jesus Christ.
  - a. In Christ God has set before our minds and hearts Someone who is more desirable than self and things.
  - b. When we embrace Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord because He has become to us "God's Indescribable Gift" we are delivered from the tyranny of self and things.
4. This week I want to expand on the thought that Jesus Christ is God's indescribable gift to us.
5. In II Corinthians Paul concluded two chapters that focused on our giving by breaking into praise with the words, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift." 9:15
6. In contemplating God's gift to us in Jesus Christ the Apostle Paul realized that the limitations of human intellect and language made it impossible to fully describe the magnitude of that gift.
7. This morning I want to focus on four things that become ours through repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
8. Paul stated, "But by His (God's) doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." I Cor. 1:30
  - a. If we are in Christ Jesus we are in Him because of God's doing or activity.
  - b. We are not in Christ Jesus because of human wisdom, merits, or works (effort).

NOTE: A sinner, saved by grace, is God's greatest miracle.
9. In Christ God provided us with four spiritual essentials.

### **I. Christ became to us wisdom from God.**

- A. Man needs wisdom from God because man's wisdom can not comprehend God or bring anyone to God.
- B. Paul asked an important question when he wrote, "Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? (Or our age for that matter) Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?" I Cor 1:20
- C. He went on to say, "For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the (apparent) foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe." I Cor 1:21
- D. In I Corinthians 1:24 Paul referred to Christ as the "...power of God (to save) and the wisdom of God (to lead to salvation)."

## II. Christ became to us righteousness from God.

A. Jesus said, "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:20

1. The scribes and the Pharisees were the personification and epitome of righteousness based on human desire and ability.

2. In order to enter the kingdom of heaven we must possess a righteousness that is not of this world.

B. The prophet Jeremiah wrote: Jer 23:5-6

"Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; and He will reign as king and act wisely and do justice and righteousness in the land. 6 "In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely; and this is His name by which He will be called, '**The LORD our righteousness.**'"

C. Paul explained that the righteousness God requires is given or imputed to those who respond to the wisdom of God. Romans 5:12-21

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned — 13 for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

15 But **the free gift** is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the **gift by the grace** of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. 16 **The gift** is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand **the free gift** arose from many transgressions resulting in justification. 17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of **the gift of righteousness** will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

18 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. 19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. 20 The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. NOTE: It is not a high level of human righteousness God requires, but we must possess His own righteousness in order to enter into His presence.

D. Because God is perfect in all His attributes He is perfectly just and must dispense perfect justice.

1. Apart from Jesus Christ no sin or infraction can be overlooked or excused.

Heb 2:1-4

For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. 2 **For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty,** 3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who

heard, 4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

NOTE: Every transgression and disobedience received and will receive a just penalty.

2. If you view yourself as righteous think about the sin-dept every human being faces just in the area of speech. Matt 12:33-37

"Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit. 34 "You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. 35 "The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil. 36 **"But I tell you that every careless (useless) word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. 37 "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."**

NOTE: Every person here today who has genuinely repented towards God, and embraced Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, will not have to answer for their speech related sins because God's justice was satisfied on the cross when God placed those sins on Jesus. Everyone else must receive a just penalty for the careless, useless words they have spoken throughout their lives.

### **III. Christ became to us sanctification from God.**

A. We could say that we have been sanctified and that we are being sanctified through the process of sanctification.

1. Every genuine Christian has been sanctified in that we have been set apart by God for God.
2. God has clothed us with the righteousness of Christ and justified us in His sight.
3. However, imputed righteousness is not all that God wants to accomplish in us.
4. He wants to be glorified by making us trophies of His grace and power.
5. Through the process of sanctification, or growth in Christlikeness, God advances what we could call practical righteousness. (**What is imputed becomes imparted.**)

B. In Christ we not only possess righteousness, be we will become righteousness.

1. Romans 8:28-30
2. Hebrews 12:4-10

C. We are to cooperate with God in this process.

1. Hebrews 12:11-14 (WARNING: Without sanctification **no one** will see the Lord!)
2. 1 John 3:1-3

See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. 3 **And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

#### **IV. Christ became to us redemption from God.**

A. The Greek word used here has to do with a releasing effected by payment of ransom.

1. Redemption, deliverance.
2. Liberation, procured by the payment of a ransom.

B. Peter reminds us that we were redeemed at a great cost. 1 Peter 1:17-19

17 If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 **but with precious blood**, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, **the blood of Christ**.

C. Having been redeemed we no longer belong to this world or even to ourselves.

1 Cor 6:15-20

15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! 16 Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, "THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH." 17 But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. 18 Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. **19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought (redeemed) with a price (the precious blood of Jesus): therefore glorify God in your body.**

#### **APPLICATION**

1. Has God revealed the beauty and desirability of Christ to you?
2. Have you come to see your unrighteousness in the light of His perfect righteousness?
3. Have you repented towards God for your part in Christ's death on Calvary's cross?
4. Have you turned from and renounced sin and embraced Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord?
5. If you have it is because Jesus has become to you wisdom from God leading to righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.