

His Unspeakable Gift
Harmony M.B.C., Nov. 17, 2013
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2Cor. 9:15 Thanks *be* unto God for his unspeakable gift.

I have known of sermons made using this text in which the preacher would read the verse and then try to describe this gift that this verse is written about. In fact, I think many of us preachers would, in preaching on this verse, try to describe the gift of God written about here. But, I would like for all of you to think for a little time about the fact that if a preacher is going to try to describe the indescribable gift of God, which in a nutshell is the gift of salvation through the complete work of Jesus Christ, that such a preacher probably does not need to use this verse. Why? you may ask. Because this very verse describes His gift as something that cannot be described (unspeakable in the Greek is in reference to something that cannot be adequately described).

But, while the verse literally negates efforts to completely describe the glorious gift of God that has come to us by way of the finished work of Jesus Christ, we should understand that there must still be something in this verse that would accommodate a message. And there is. That something lies in the first phrase - "Thanks be to God...."

What I want us to do today is think about thanks to God for the indescribable gift of salvation by grace through our Lord Jesus Christ.

I. Let us thank Him that He worked this wonderful work when no merit was found in mankind by which He might be compelled to grant eternal life.

- If you were totally self-sufficient and you had all the creative power to make any raw material or any finished product that you wanted, and you looked at something you created and you were able to see that it had been completely twisted out of shape so that in its present condition it was totally incapable of doing what you created it to do, what might be your first thought? Might it be to just trash the whole thing and start over?
- OK, on the other hand, you might see that the twisted condition of the product was because an enemy had stolen a part out of your creation, and you could put the part back in. But what if you also saw that even when you put the part back in, you would have to put up with a flaw in the creation that could not be removed without totally altering that created product, what might you be tempted to do? Junk the product and start over?
- There is more depth of meaning than we often suggest in the complaint of God that is reiterated in **Romans 3:10-12** - There is none righteous, no, not one: **11** There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. **12** They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

II. Let us thank Him that in His infinite wisdom, He understood that salvation could not come to men without divine intervention, so, He determined as a sovereign God to intervene.

- What I just quoted from **Romans 3:11-12** sums up God's assessment of us and our lack of

ability and lack of willingness to come to Him: "...there is none that seeketh after God...they are together become unprofitable...."

- ▶ When a person's heart stops beating, blood quits running through their veins, oxygen quits being distributed through their bodies, such a person at that moment is entering into death. At that moment, they have neither ability nor human will to revive and stand up. But, if you are there watching, you can take the initiative and begin CPR and revive that person, give them the power or will to begin breathing on their own and give them the ability to do it.
- This entire truth teaches us that if our Lord had not chosen to intervene and do something for our poor dead souls, we would have remained, as individuals, and as a race, dead people without any fate before us but the fate of the dead...and that is spiritually dead...having no spiritual power to act.
- We can be thankful that we have a God who was moved by His own mercy to not only take our salvation into his own hands, but intentionally intervened to set us to seeking Him, and make us spiritually productive to boot.
 - ▶ Christ's own words about His ministry bring this home to us: (**Luke 19:10**) "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."
 - ▶ After he sought and saved us, we can thank God that He also intervened to give us a heart and a spirit to seek after Him and His things:
 - **Romans 8:5** For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit (**mind**) the things of the Spirit.
 - "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."
(**Psalms 42:1**)

III. So, the Lord intervened to guarantee salvation for His people. Now, there is something even more personal about this and we don't want to fail to thank Him for this aspect: let us thank Him that in His infinite insight He saw that salvation could not be granted to men **unless divinity Himself inserted Himself into the salvation process** to reconcile men to Himself by satisfying divine justice

- So, God determined within Himself to intervene and do something about our dead condition. But what to do? Since, in our dead state we could not possibly act out some kind of offering toward Him that would satisfy the justifiable requirement that our disobedience toward Him, our unwarranted enmity toward Him be brought to justice (the law that defines the nature of God regarding justice is "every transgression receives a just recompense of reward.")
- Somebody had to pay for this rebellion...it is the very nature of God that creatures who act contrary to God-likeness be judged for such transgression, namely un-Godliness. But, God knew there was no way that **any mortal man** could pay the debt required for him to be reinstated into fellowship with his Creator.
- But we can thank Him that, in understanding this, He also understood that divinity would have to be inserted into the process to do the work of justifying men and reconciling them to Himself.
- This is the great mystery of substitutionary atonement that we hear about and know that Jesus Christ accomplished single-handedly.
 - ▶ There is a bit of description concerning this unspeakable gift given by Paul in **Romans 5:6** which certainly fits here: "For when we were **yet without strength**, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."

- ▶ **2Cor. 5:18** “And all things *are* of God, who hath **reconciled us to himself** by Jesus Christ....”

IV. Let us thank Him that in His all-seeing, all-knowing self He understood that it was not enough that the way of salvation be devised solely by Him, and not enough that obtaining of salvation for men be done solely by the Son, but that the **application of the effects of salvation be an act that must be done solely by the divinity also; that divine being who would do that would be the Holy Spirit.**

- The immobile, helpless man lying at the Pool of Bethesda (**John 5:2-9**) gives us a great illustration of this.
 - ▶ Note he was in sight of the action taking place in the water, he knew in a certain sense about what happened to folks who went into the disturbed water, but HE WAS INCAPABLE OF DOING ANYTHING ABOUT MAKING USE OF THAT EVENT WHEN THE WATER WAS STIRRED. But, when Jesus commanded him, he immediately received the change.
 - ▶ Ye must be born again to see and inherit the kingdom of God, but how can a person get this done? That which is born of flesh is flesh and **that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.** (**John 3:6**)
 - ▶ **Romans 8:15** “...ye have **RECEIVED the Spirit of adoption**, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

V. Let us thank Him that in His application of salvation to the souls of men, He should **devise a way to elevate the nature of those recipients of salvation to a divine level**

- Illustrate the difference between the life of an unregenerate human and a born-again believer by contrasting the life of a worm with the life of a human; contrast the life of someone on life support but in a coma with the life of a healthy person who has complete faculties.
- **Gal. 4:6** And **because ye are sons**, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.
- **1John 3:2** Beloved, **now are we the sons of God**, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.
- **Rev. 1:6** - (God) “...hath **made us kings and priests** unto God and his Father....”

VI. Let us thank Him that the indescribable gift included an eternal, limitless inheritance in a Kingdom that He alone prepared for our enjoyment

- Mention not being able to describe the glories of an eternal kingdom built by an omnipotent God; custom made for a people whom He understands everything about; custom made...designed by this all-knowing, all-powerful Lord according to divine specifications to fit our elevated desires.
- Regardless of the fact that we cannot adequately describe that glorious place and state, we can thank Him that our citizenship in it is part of that indescribable gift: (**Luke 12:32**) “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to **give you the kingdom.**”
 - ▶ **Mat. 25:34** Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the **kingdom prepared for you** from the foundation of the world:

VII. So, we have an indescribable kingdom and its enjoyment to look forward to, but there is a last thing I want to remind us to thank Him for about His unspeakable gift. Let us thank Him that He devised this indescribable gift so that **we could enjoy and participate with Him in elements of it right now** in our temporary time on earth.

- Diane made some biscuits the other day to be used to make dressing or stuffing out of. I knew that I would get to eat some of those biscuits in that dressing later on, but I had a real yearning to eat one now. She gave me one of those biscuits, and I ate it as a biscuit...enjoyed it immensely right then. This is the way it is with some of the things the Lord has prepared for us. We can have some right now, and we can enjoy more of it later.
- One portion of scripture that describes some of these things is found in **Gal. 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, **23** Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
- There is another aspect of this part of God's unspeakable gift that is found in **Mark 10:29-30**.
- Conclusion: I want us to notice that everything about this message actually focused us on one important factor. That is, thanking God. So, as we meditate on salvation in Christ, let's find reasons to thank Him for every facet of that "so great salvation."