

“God’s Indescribable Gift”

December 25, 2022

John 3:16-17

I. Introduction

Once again let me wish everyone a “Merry Christmas.” I suspect that by now most of you have had the opportunity to open your presents—some of you last night and the rest of you this morning before church. So, this morning as we’re thinking about Christmas gifts, it seemed appropriate to consider God’s gift to the world—eternal life through Jesus Christ. Thinking of this gift, Paul wrote In [2 Cor. 9:15](#), “**Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!**”

For the last month or so, many have been concerned about choosing just the right Christmas gifts to give to the special people in their lives. As you think back over all the gifts that you have received, have you ever received an indescribable gift? What kind of gift would it have to be to be *indescribable*? Would it be a gift that you open and say, “*This is beautiful. It’s something that I’ve wanted all my life!* *What is it?*” Or maybe it would be a gift that carries a lot of emotional feelings with it. It was given to you by someone very special and it was a complete surprise when you opened it. You’ll treasure it always because of the memories that it brings. Would that make it an *indescribable gift*? Or maybe it would be a gift that you cared so little about that you wouldn’t even bother to find words to try to describe it. What is an *indescribable gift*? There are at least four reasons that Paul called the gift of Jesus Christ and eternal life “*indescribable*.”

II. Four reasons the gift of Jesus is called indescribable

A. Because of Jesus’ nature The first reason that Paul called the gift of Jesus “*indescribable*” is because of Jesus’ nature. How does one really describe Jesus? What words would you choose? Turn to [Matthew 1:20-23](#). How do you describe a baby born of a virgin? How do you describe “**God with us**”? [John 1:14](#) says, “**The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**” Earlier in [John 1:1](#) John

wrote, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Jesus was fully God and fully man.

How do you describe God in flesh, walking—living on earth and reaching out to those that are in need of healing, both spiritually and physically? How does one describe an omniscient God—a God who has all knowledge when all we have is limited knowledge? How does one describe an omnipotent God—a God who is all powerful? How does one describe the eternal? How do you describe the indescribable? Paul says it can’t be done.

Words just aren’t adequate. But many men through the years have tried to describe Jesus. In 325 AD the Council of Nicaea—a gathering of all the brilliant religious minds of the day—tried. Some of you may remember their description but for those who don’t know it, here is their description from the Nicene Creed: *“The one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father [the only-begotten; that is, of the essence of the Father, God of God], Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father.”*

Did you understand all that? Neither do I and I doubt any else does either. This is learned man’s attempt to describe the indescribable. Even when the greatest minds come together and use the most immense vocabularies, they cannot adequately describe the nature of Jesus. He was and is one of a kind—God and man—God incarnate—this is indescribable.

B. Because of Jesus’ Purpose in Coming to Earth

A second reason Paul called the gift of Jesus *indescribable* is because of Jesus’ purpose in coming to earth. In [Luke 2:11](#) the angel told the shepherds, “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” In [Matthew 20:28](#) Jesus said, “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” [1 Timothy 1:15](#) says, “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”

In the midst of all the political correctness around us, Christmas is a day set aside to celebrate the fact that Jesus came into the world to save sinners—to save us. God saw that mankind needed saving—in Luke 19:10 Jesus said, “**For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.**” When God looked at the world, He knew that our greatest need was not for more wealth or better schools or a better welfare system or universal peace. Mankind’s greatest need was for a Savior. Romans 6:23 says, “**The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**” There will never be peace on earth until men have been lifted out of their sins, their hearts changed, and their way of thinking changed. This can only happen when the Savior has come into their lives. Man’s greatest need is to be saved from the eternal punishment of hell. **Turn to 1 Peter 1:18-20.**

How can you describe that? How can one put into words what God accomplished when He sent His only begotten Son into the world to die for the sins of the world? God’s gift—Jesus Christ—is indescribable because of His nature, because of His purpose in coming to earth, and, thirdly, because of the grace by which Jesus was given.

C. Because of the Grace by which Jesus was Given To whom do you give Christmas presents?

Basically, you give them to people who have some claim on you. You give a gift to your husband or wife because of that relationship. You give gifts to your children because they are your children. You give gifts to your grandchildren because they are your grandchildren. We buy gifts for family members because they are family.

If you give a gift to someone who is not family, it’s probably because they bought you a gift last year and you didn’t. So, you owe them a gift this year and the story goes on. We sometimes give gifts to someone who has done something special for us. Many give gifts to feed the hungry or clothe those who need clothes or take care of the homeless, they give because deep down inside they know that they have a debt to humanity. There is a feeling of obligation for them.

This is what makes God's gift so special--indescribable, He doesn't owe anyone anything. In fact, as sinners we were at constant rebellion against Him and His will for our lives. [Romans 8:7](#) says, "The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so." [Turn to Romans 5:6-8.](#) Even though we were enemies of God, Christ died for us. God gave this gift, not because He felt obligated to give a gift, but because His grace and love are so overwhelming. [Turn to Romans 3:22-24.](#)

The word "grace" itself means to give something that is **NOT** deserved. This gift of eternal life from God is a gift of grace; it's not deserved by any stretch of the imagination. [Ephesians 2:8-9](#) says, "For it is by grace you have been saved through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." As we think about the manger at Bethlehem, as we think about the Baby Jesus, we need to remember that He is a gift of grace—God's grace. We don't deserve Him or His gift. There are no words to adequately describe God's grace towards us in Jesus.

D. Because of Jesus' Effect on Believers

Thinking of gifts—when you received the gifts that were purchased for you by loved ones, was your life changed? When you opened any of your presents this Christmas, was your life changed in any significant way? Did they make you different? Or will you be the same as you have always been? But what happens when you receive God's gift?

The Bible teaches that when a person "believes in him, i.e., Jesus" the indescribable gift of God, he will never be the same again because of how Jesus affects one's life. This is the 4th reason that Jesus is called the "indescribable gift" because of His effect on those who accept God's gift—Jesus' effect on believers. [2 Corinthians 5:17](#) says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come." The effects of accepted God's gift of Jesus Christ and eternal life are many.

1. Believers are forgiven of your sins. The first effect of Jesus coming into one's life as they make Him their Lord and Savior is that they are forgiven of their sins. [Colossians 2:13](#) says, "When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He

forgave us all our sins.” In [Isaiah 43:25](#) God said, “I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers yours sins no more.” [Psalm 103:12](#) says: “As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.” [1 John 1:9](#) says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” As [Ephesians 4:24](#) says, we can now “put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

Because sins are forgiven, believers are righteous and holy in God’s sight.

2. Believers are adopted into God’s family. A 2nd effect of Jesus becoming one’s Lord and Savior is that believers are adopted into God’s family. [Galatians 4:7](#) says, “So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.” In [Romans 8:17](#) Paul wrote, “If we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ.” Believers are brothers and sisters in God’s family because we have accepted His indescribable gift. Every Christian is a part of the family of God.

3. Believers receive the Holy Spirit. Third, when one accepts Jesus, he receives the gift of His Holy Spirit to live within him. [1 Corinthians 6:19](#) says, “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God?” [1 John 4:13](#) says, “We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.” Turn to [John 14:26](#). Accepting God’s indescribable gift includes the indwelling of the Holy Spirit who will guide, counsel, protect, and give strength to every believer.

4. Believers have God’s peace. A 4th effect of God’s gift is His peace. Believers have peace with God “and the peace of God, which transcends all understanding” ([Philippians 4:7](#)). This peace allows Christians to cope with everyday situations as well as those times of extreme trouble or difficulty.

5. Believers have a heavenly mansion. Finally, because of God’s indescribable gift, every believer has a mansion in heaven waiting for him or her ([John 14:1-3](#)). This heavenly home will last for

all eternity—and that's indescribable, too. And these are just a few of the effects or changes that occur when one receives God's "indescribable gift."

III. Conclusion

There is no way we or anyone else can describe God's gift to us—Jesus Christ. Better theologians—better linguists than you or I have tried and failed. The Apostle Paul considered Jesus and all He has done and then he wrote in [Ephesians 3:14](#), "For this reason I kneel before the Father." This is what we need to do this Christmas Day and every day—we need to fall on our knees and thank God for His indescribable Gift.

When God looked down at the troubled, confused, sinful world some 2000 years ago, He saw people looking for peace, looking for the meaning of true life. He wanted to communicate with them and tell them of His love. But if He came in person as the Almighty Jehovah God, He would have scared everyone just as He had done back in Moses' time. If He had spoken from the sky, people would hear the thunder of His voice and probably miss His words of love. In His infinite wisdom, He sent a baby. Babies don't frighten people. Babies are tender, soft, helpless. This way would show God's love in an understandable way to mankind. So, "when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons" ([Galatians 4:4](#)). This is indescribable! But the good news is that you don't have to be able to describe Him to accept Him. You just have to make Jesus your Lord and Savior and allow His Holy Spirit to fill you and change you.

This Christmas Day take some time to get away from all the hustle and bustle and take time to thank God for His indescribable gift to you. And then, tell someone else about your indescribable gift. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." ([John 3:16-17](#)).