

JCI Christmas 2011

Thanks be to God for His indescribable Gift

2 Cor 9:15

As we approach Christmas once again, one of my favorite passages that comes to mind repeatedly these days is 2 Cor. 9:15 "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" As Paul has exhorted his fellow believers to be generous in giving gifts to those in need, he sets it all in perspective by holding before us the indescribable gift we have received from God Himself, His only son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

These are busy days, so let me be brief and to the point.

WHY IS THIS GIFT INDESCRIBABLE?

The need of it is indescribable!

We were perishing! We were facing an eternity of darkness, separated from the presence of God, under His just and deserved wrath forever. This gift meets a need that is indescribable in its severity, necessity, and extremity. It meets an indescribable need!

The rarity of it is indescribable!

God so loved the world that He gave His ONLY begotten Son. There is only One Son of God. There is no one like Him, no one but Him, no one besides Him that was given to us. This gift is indescribably rare!

The worth of it is indescribable!

There is no way to describe the worth of the Son of God. He is the perfect, sinless, holy, Word incarnate. When we gather in heaven and begin to sing His praise, the first word to escape our glorified lips will be "Worthy!" "Worthy is the Lamb!" This gift is of indescribable worth.

The love that motivated it is indescribable!

How shall anyone define the love of God that would give His only Son to save us? The indescribable depth of that love is contained in two letters... S and O. God SO loved the world that He gave His only Son. O the depth of the love of God. How can such love exist? This love is for haters of God, rebels against His plan, murderers of His Son, blasphemers of His name. Yet, knowing our corruption, our depravity, our incorrigible hearts, He sends His Son and sets His love upon us to redeem us unto Himself. The love behind the gift is indescribable.

The price of it is indescribable!

We may have received some expensive gifts, but never has a price been paid for such a gift as this gift. In giving us His only Son, God "gave Him up" for us all. This indescribable gift includes of necessity the indescribable suffering He endured to bring salvation to us. One might describe the scourging, the beating, the mockery, the thorns, the crucifixion. Such things can be described. But the soul suffering of Christ in bearing our sin and the wrath of heaven against the sins of the world will never be described. It is too extensive, too horrible, too extreme, too deep, too crushing for mortals or mortal language to ever begin to imagine, much less comprehend. O the cost of this gift is indescribable.

The lasting of it is indescribable!

Most of the gifts we've received over decades of Christmas' past have long since been worn out, lost, stolen, regifted, outgrown, sold at yard sales, or thrown out in the trash. That is the eventual and ultimate end of every earthly gift, is it not? "We brought nothing into this world and... we can carry nothing out." Oh, but this gift, this gift lasts forever. Hear once again the glory of this everlasting gift..."everlasting life, "ever be with the Lord..." "eternal life..." "everlasting to everlasting..." All of God's gifts are resident in a person. When you have this everlastingly needed, everlastingly rare, everlastingly worthy, everlastingly loving, everlastingly costly, everlasting gift of our Lord Jesus, then you have every other gift of God in Him. "All...blessings...in Him." Eph 1:3 And these blessings are everlasting blessings, for our Lord in Whom these blessings are found is an everlasting Lord. O the joy of the permanence of this gift of our Lord Jesus Christ. Unchanging, enduring, ever present, never failing...

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR HIS INDESCRIBABLE GIFT!

I began this project knowing I would fail. For I have attempted to do what God said I could not do, describe what is indescribable. Never have I so delighted in failure than at this feeble attempt. Let us continue to meditate and mine more of the depths of this indescribable Gift throughout the Christmas season. No matter what we discover about our blessed Lord, we always end with the realization... there is yet more. We shall be saying this when the universe is but a dim and distant memory and we've been in His presence for ages yet to come... then still, we shall never have but begun to explore the greatness and goodness of this indescribable gift.... O Lord Jesus, I know so little of Thee. I long to know Thee more. Show me more of Thy glory that I may glorify Thee, for You are worthy of more! Have a blessed Christmas. Ron Berrus ron@bbcpa.org www.bbcpa.org