

THE GIFT
Christmas Message #2 – 12/16/07

Introduction -

Christmas at the Curtis home has always been a big event. While for years we lived very frugal all year long, we always tried to make Christmas an exception to that rule. We have so many memories of the children anxiously rounding that corner once given the okay to come out of their bedrooms, and seeing their eyes aglow and big as saucers. Likewise, our heavenly Father delighted in giving His creation a gift, that when received, would forever change their lives. He loves watching our eyes light up and we anxiously receive His gift. Today we will share about this incredible gift, and if you haven't already done so, we invite you to receive it today.

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2 Cor 9:15 – “THANKS BE TO GOD FOR HIS INDESCRIBABLE GIFT.”
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1.

Romans 5:6,18 – “You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly” ...”just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for **all men**, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for **all men**.”

Discussion: What do these scriptures mean, and what is the significance of these statements?

2.

Ephesians 2:8-9 – “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – **and not from yourselves, it is the gift of God** – not by works so that no one can boast.”

Acts 8:18,20 – “When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on the apostles’ hands, **he offered them money** ... Peter answered: ‘May your **money perish with you**, because you thought that you could **buy the gift of God** with money.’”

Discussion:

1. Why, in your opinion, do people all over the world try to “pay” for their salvation one way or the other?
2. How do even we Christians sometimes fall into this error?
3. Why is this such an offense to our God?

3.

John 1:12 – “Yet to all **who received Him** ... He gave the right to become children of God.”

Rom 5:17b – “...how much more will those **who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.**”

Discussion:

1. What is the one thing you must do with a gift?
2. When you combine pts 1&3, what does this say?

4.

Luke 2:7 – “She wrapped Him in **cloths** and placed Him in a **manger**, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

1 Cor 1:23 – “but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to the Jews and **foolishness** to the Gentiles”

Discussion: What do these two scriptures have in common, and how do they explain this point?

5.

2 Cor 9:15 – “Thanks be to God for His **indescribable gift**”

Rom 8:32 – “He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all – how will He not not also, **along with Him, graciously give us all things.**”

Discussion:

1. How did the story Pastor told of the picture of the son illustrate this point perfectly?
2. How does this make this gift even more indescribable?