

GOD'S PERFECT GIFT

TEXT: Galatians 4:4-5

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, [5] to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

2 Cor. 9:15

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

INTRODUCTION

How many of you have started your Christmas shopping?

You want to get just the right gift for that special person.
So they can open it up and say WOW!!!

But let me ask you, "Have you ever received an indescribable gift?"

What is an "indescribable gift?"

- Maybe an indescribable gift is the kind of gift that brings about so much emotion that when you see it you say, **"I'M SPEECHLESS"**
- Maybe its a gift that you care so little about **that you wouldn't even bother to find words to try to describe it.**

Or maybe its the kind of gift you open and say, - **"WHAT IS IT THAT THING?"**

What is an Indescribable gift?

ILLUSTRATION

A while back, "Good Morning, America," featured some gift ideas that might be called indescribable.

They were extraordinary gifts that some of you might want to include on your Christmas gift list.

One of them was the Jaguar 220.

If you want to order one just go to your Jaguar dealer and put down an \$80,000 deposit.

Then when the automobile is delivered, you can pay the balance of \$507,000.

The Jaguar 220 is a \$587,000 automobile,
and they only make 250 of them a year.

You might also be interested in a new car wax that promises to give it the ultimate shine.

It retails for \$3,400 for an 8 ounce can.

A third item mentioned was a \$300,000 gold and silver toilet seat inlaid with precious stones.

Of course, there were cheaper gifts for those who have everything:

an \$18,000 frisbee,
a \$10,000 yoyo,
a \$12,000 mousetrap,
and even a \$27,000 pair of sunglasses.

And for the proud grandparent who is wondering what to buy the new grandbaby, **how about a \$28,000 pacifier?**

Gifts like this kind of blow your mind, don't they?

But they are not indescribable.

Even though we may not be able to find words to describe them,

THE MANUFACTURERS CAN,

They will spend lots of money describing them in TV and newspaper ads.

They will attempt to describe them in such a way as to entice you into believing that you simply can't live without them.

The point is - **EVERY HUMAN GIFT IS DESCRIBABLE BY SOMEONE.**

APPLICATION

In 2 Corinthians 9, Paul at first is writing about human gifts.

The church in Corinth is taking up offerings to give to the poor Christians in Jerusalem.

He commends them for their eagerness to help,

and reminds them

That those who sow sparingly will also reap sparingly, but that those who sow generously will reap generously.

THEN HE SHIFTS HIS ATTENTION FROM HUMAN GIFTS

To God's gift of sending Jesus to earth for us.

And he cannot find words to describe that.

He simply says, "**Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.**"

PROPOSITION

Why does Paul call Jesus "indescribable?"

Let me give you **FOUR REASONS** why the gift of Jesus to us is beyond mere words

A perfect gift that deserves our full acceptance

PRAYER

I. BECAUSE OF HIS NATURE

A. **First of all, I believe that Paul calls Jesus "indescribable" because of His nature.**

How do you describe Jesus?

What words would you choose?

- How do you describe **a baby born of a virgin?**
- How do you describe **God in flesh?**
- How do you account for God Walking upon the earth

Reaching out to the hurting people of the world

Isaiah said He would be called Emanuel, "**God with us.**"

How do you describe that?

What words would you choose?

- How do you describe that which is spirit when all we have ever known is that which is either physical or material?
- How do you describe God who has all knowledge when all we have is limited knowledge?
- How do you describe God who is all powerful?
- How do you describe the eternal?
- How do you describe the indescribable?

B. Paul says that we can't.

Words aren't adequate.

But many of the wisest men in the world have tried to describe Jesus.

ILLUSTRATION

in 451 A.D. The greatest theological minds of the time came together at the Council of Chalcedon and tried to describe Jesus. Here is their description:

"Perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood. Truly man of a reasonable, rational soul and body. Consubstantial, co-essential with the Father according to the manhood. In all things like unto us without sin. Begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead. And in these latter times for us and for our salvation, born of the virgin Mary and of the mother of God. According to the manhood ? one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, only begotten to be acknowledged in two natures. Inconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably and the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved."

How many of you understood that?

NEITHER DID I.

That's man's attempt to describe the indescribable Nature of God's Perfect Gift.

Even when we bring together our greatest minds

And our most extensive vocabularies,

we cannot adequately describe HIM.

He is indescribable

II. BECAUSE OF HIS INCARNATION

SECONDLY, BECAUSE OF HIS INCARNATION HIS BIRTH

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?

We celebrate the fact that GOD came into our world TO SAVE US.

That's what Christmas is all about

IN Luke 2:11-14 we see The angels announcing to the shepherds,

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. [12] This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

[13] Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

[14] "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

God the King and creator of the universe came down and became one of us

In his best-selling book, *The Jesus I Never Knew*,

Philip Yancey contrasts the humility that characterized Jesus' royal visit to planet earth with the prestigious image associated with world rulers today:

In London, looking toward the auditorium's royal box where the queen and her family sat, I caught glimpses of the...way rulers stride through the world: with bodyguards, and a trumpet fanfare and a flourish of bright clothes and flashing jewelry.

Queen Elizabeth II had recently visited the United States, and reporters delighted in spelling out the logistics involved: her four thousand pounds of luggage included two outfits for every occasion, a mourning outfit in case someone died, forty pints of plasma, and white kid-leather toilet seat covers. She brought along her own hairdresser, two valets, and a host of other attendants. A brief visit of royalty to a foreign country can easily cost twenty million dollars.

In meek contrast,

God's visit to earth took place in an animal shelter

with no attendants present and

nowhere to lay the newborn king but a feed trough.

the event that divided history,

and even our calendars, into two parts may have had more animal than human witnesses.

A mule could have stepped on him.

How do you account for that?

IT'S INDESCRIBABLE

But it is beautiful in its occurrence

That he who knew no sin
 Would leave heaven
 Lay aside his glory
 Be born a man like you or me

SO HE COULD SAVE US

Thirdly, because of the grace by which Jesus is given.

III. BECAUSE OF THE GRACE BY WHICH JESUS IS GIVEN

Every gift that I give this Christmas

will be given because the recipient of that gift **HAS SOME CLAIM ON ME.**

I'll buy a gift for my wife **because she is my wife.**

I'll buy gifts for my children **because they are my children.**

We buy gifts for family members **because they are family.**

If I give a gift to feed the hungry,
 or clothe the naked
 or to take care of the homeless,

I do it because down deep inside I recognize that I have a debt to humanity,
 a feeling of obligation to them.

THAT IS WHAT MAKES GOD'S GIFT SO SPECIAL.

He doesn't owe us anything.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

God gives a gift,
not because He feels obligated to give a gift

but because His love is so overwhelming.

Max Lucado write,

There are many reasons God gives the gift of salvation through His Son Jesus Christ

to bring glory to himself,
to appease his justice,
to demonstrate his sovereignty.

But one of the sweetest reasons God is because he is fond of you.
He likes having you around.
He thinks you are the best thing to come down the pike in quite a while

.... If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.

If he had a wallet, your photo would be in it.

He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning.

Whenever you want to talk, he'll listen.

You can live anywhere in the universe, and he will be there for you.

And the Christmas gift he sent you in Bethlehem?

Face it, friend. He's crazy about you!

I like that....I may not be able to fully comprehend it
But I know its true....God Loves Me

And by his Grace I am saved

WHAT AN INDESCRIBABLE GIFT

A final reason Jesus is called the indescribable gift

IV. BECAUSE OF HIS EFFECT ON US

is because of What happens when we receive God's gift?

LET ME ASK YOU A QUESTION....

When you open your gifts this Christmas will your life be different?

You will probably be the same as you have always been?

The Bible teaches that when we accept Jesus,

THE INDESCRIBABLE GIFT OF GOD,

That we will never be the same again

1. HE SETS US FREE FROM SIN

He forgets them...

Gives us away out from further sin

Through the blood of Jesus

2. YOU ARE ADOPTED INTO HIS FAMILY

and guaranteed citizenship in His kingdom.

Before, you were a foreigner and an alien, separated from God.

But now, because of having accepted Him,

You become an adopted son of Almighty God.

What does that mean

EVERYTHING THAT BELONGS TO JESUS ALSO BELONGS TO ME.

3. He gives us the Holy Spirit

He is our guide and counselor

He protects and empowers us

4. WE ARE GIVEN HIS PEACE.

Not the peace of the world,

but

Peace that allows me to cope with everyday situations.

the peace that passes all understanding.

CONCLUSION

The apostle Paul looked at Jesus and what he Gave AND SAID

"I can't describe Him. All I can do is fall on my knees and thank God for His indescribable gift."

And I guess that's what we need to do at Christmas time, too,

to fall on our knees and thank God for His indescribable gift.

When God looked at our confused world nearly 2,000 years ago;
when He saw Roman soldiers marching in the streets;
when He saw people looking for peace and meaning and depth in life,
He wanted so urgently to communicate His love.

But how? "How shall I communicate my love?"

If I appear in person," He must have thought, "If I stand before the people in all my glory, they'll be frightened, they'll be scared away.

They will never feel that they can come to me and talk with me.

They'll be much like Moses who stood on the mountain and took off His shoes because he was on holy ground."

"If I speak, if they hear the thunder of my voice,

they may never grasp the words of my love.

If I send down legions of angels perhaps they will not know how to respond.

Maybe they will never be able to experience my love."

God said, "I know. I will send a baby.

Babies don't frighten people.

Babies are tender and soft and helpless.

Maybe they will hold the baby in their arms.

Maybe they will touch the soft skin of a baby.

Maybe they will hear the gentle sighs of a baby.

Maybe they will experience my love if I send a baby."

BUT WHEN THE TIME HAD FULLY COME, GOD SENT HIS SON,

as a baby.

Indescribable!

But the good news is that you don't have to be able to describe Him to accept Him.

All you have to do is take Him into your heart and accept God's indescribable gift for you.