

THE GIFT THAT WE HAVE

“IN JESUS”

Luke 2:1-14

When you hear the word “gift” especially during this time of the year, what comes to your mind? For children the thoughts are excitement, exhilaration and wonderment. You may well be captivated by what you are “hoping” to get this Christmas season. However, for parents, the thought of “gifts” may involve purchasing items for which there is little to no money available. Sadly, in the society in which we live, in many ways Christmas is gauged by the degree and the size of the “gift” that a person receives. The reality of every “gift” that we will give and receive for the most part will involve the reality of that they will some day tarnish, fade, and wear out. Yet, the true wonder of Christmas, is not found in things, but in a relationship with “a person named Jesus” that exceeds our greatest imaginations. But exactly what is involved when we have the gift of Jesus in us.

1. WE HAVE THE GIFT OF A “A DIVINE PERSON IN US” BOTH NOW AND FOR ALL ETERNITY.

*Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory:* If there was “one wonder” that stood out to the apostle Paul, it was this...that Christ, the very Son of God, and God himself, now lived inside the very life of Paul. That same truth is the case for every single person that has been saved by the grace of God. When you accepted Jesus Christ, if you are a Christian, God gave you the gift of “Jesus” to live “within you”. But what does that mean? It means that every believer irregardless of who they are, and where they are, they can never under any circumstance ever be alone...no matter what! Many people will find themselves this year “alone” for the very first time in their lives, due to the death of a spouse, a family member. Yet, the wonder of Christmas and the Cross is the very fact that God will never let us be alone.

When Jesus Christ came to this earth, He was born in a stable, destined for the cross, to die for the sins of mankind. But He did not only die for our sins, He came to live within each of us...meaning this...that any person...no matter who they are...is every really alone. No doubt Paul spent some lonely times apart from friends, neighbors, and fellow Christians, but the “reality that Christ lived in him” changed each and every day of his life. That truth is the same for all believers today.

Whoever Christ is, and whatever Christ can do, the power of Christ and whatever the nature of Christ is...now lives inside every born again believer. There was no fear in Jesus, there was no frustration in Jesus, there was no anxiety in Jesus, there was nothing He could not accomplish by God’s power...and that same reality can be ours as we come to “REALIZE” that Christ lives in us as believers. How can Jesus live inside a human being? Paul declared that is was a mystery...yet it is the truth of God’s Word. When you have lonely moments as a Christian remember...it is an absolute impossibility for all eternity for you to ever be alone again. When you have moments of fear and frustration...you have the all-powerful Jesus living within you. When you have moments of difficulty...you have living within you the Person for whom nothing shall be impossible. For you have been given the gift of Jesus...and He lives inside of you 24/7/365. Sadly, however that is not the case with the unbeliever. The unbeliever cannot live

with the same degree of confidence because he does not have “Jesus” living within him. But he can through faith, trust and confession. The wonderment of “true Christmas” is this...that the living Christ lives in every born again believer...and He empowers us to face all of life’s difficulties...with His divine power. For Scripture says that “Nothing shall be impossible with God”, and that is who lives inside all believers...Jesus (God the Son).

Through the simple means of faith, belief, confession of sins, God the Father has given to all, the amazing and unspeakable gift of “Jesus in us”.

2. WE HAVE THE GIFT OF “BEING RIGHT” WITH ALMIGHTY GOD.

Romans 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus! Not only do we have the gift of Jesus living within us, but through Jesus we “have been made right” with Almighty God of the universe. But what does that mean? It means that the anger of God is completely turned away from those who are true believer in Christ, and that God will not rain His wrath on those who are “in Christ”. God makes it very clear that there will be a day when the “wrath” of Jesus Christ shall come, and will be vented toward all who spurn His offer of grace, forgiveness, and eternal life.

Revelation 6:16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: In this one verse is a sobering picture of individuals are will experience the full wrath of God upon their lives because of their rebellion and disobedience. Men and women alike in the coming of Christ will beg for rocks and mountains to fall on them, knowing that they will soon be awaiting the judgment of Holy God upon their lives. It will be a most horrible day for all unbelievers, just like it was a horrible day in the flood during Noah’s time for all who refused the offer of the ark. Men and women will stand before the judgment of the Lord Jesus and will be banished by His wrath, and anger for rebelling against him. People will be screaming, crying, begging, but it will be all in vain, and all too late. They will cry for rescue but no rescue will come...now they will experience only wrath...**BUT NOT FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST.** For every one of us who have the gift of Jesus within us, there will be “no wrath” from God. *Romans 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*

For Jesus Christ has taken our sins, and through faith, and confession, we have been made to be the family of God. However, if you are not a child of God, there will come a day that you will beg the mountains to fall on you and hide you from the face of The Lamb of God that will eternally sentence you because of your rebellion. There will be no escaping His wrath at that time.

3. WE HAVE THE GIFT OF “UNCONDITIONAL LOVE” THAT FLOWS FROM GOD.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. If there is one characteristic that encompasses the very person of Christ it is His “unconditional love”. All throughout the pages of Scripture, He responded to those who loved him and those who hated him alike...with “unconditional love”. Long before we were every saved or desired to know anything about Jesus, God was revealing and showing His love to us.

Paul put it this way...God was demonstrating His love toward us, while at the same time

we were sinning against Him. Why does God do that? Because “love” is the very nature of God. Since “love” is the very nature of God, “love” is the very nature of Jesus as well. When a person receives the “gift of Jesus” into their lives, they at that moment receive “the gift of unconditional love” not only for time but for all eternity. God not only loves us, but He enables us and empowers us to love every one irregardless of who they are and what they have done. 2 *Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

If you were asked the question, “Can you love every one?” Chances are some would answer “That is not possible”! The real truth is...we cannot in the flesh, but now that Christ lives in us, we can love all whom Christ loves...for His nature of love resides in all true believers. Sadly, some believer choose not to love certain people...which is totally inconsistent with the nature that God placed in us. In Christ we have been give the capacity to love “absolutely everyone”. Paul found “love” a most powerful reality in his own life. Those whom he hated and could not stand and desired to kill, for some reason he found a “love” for. He yearned to be with them, and to develop a relationship with them. Not because of any power of his own. But all because “Jesus” lived in him, and Jesus is all about “being and showing love”. That simply is Jesus nature. Paul found himself “loving” those who put him in chain. He found himself “loving” those that persecuted him, rejected him, and treated him wickedly. But he realized that it was not his ability to love...but the love of God flowing through him to others. When a person comes to Christ, they are given at that moment “the spirit of love”.

Loving is not something you learn to do, but is divinely given by Almighty God. One of the most amazing truths that Paul realized in all his earthly pilgrimage what that the God who redeemed him, had enabled him, empowered him, and equipped him to “love” in the most difficult situations, and that same truth applies with every born again believer today as well. Jesus living inside of you empowers you to love anyone. The sad reality is this...we deliberately choose to withhold love from certain individuals resulting pain year after year.

4. WE HAVE THE GIFT OF “FORGIVENESS” THROUGH JESUS.

Matthew 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. There is one sobering reality about each and every person born into this world...namely this...we are born as sinners into a world of sin. There is absolutely no way to be right with the God that created us apart from Jesus Christ. The purpose of Christ coming into the world was to “save sinners”. Paul the apostle put it this way in 1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

The very purpose for the coming of Christ into the world was to provide a “rescue” to all who would believe. Yet, not only did He provide a rescue from sin, He also removes and deletes from our lives “sin”. It is the very nature of Jesus to forgive from sin. But not only do we have the gift of forgiveness...the complete removal of all sin, we have been give “the power” to forgive and release every person that hurts or offends our lives. Sadly, many believers fail to realize they have been given the power “to forgive” and they live in continual agony over issues that took place in the past. When a person has the “gift of Jesus” living within them, they have the power to forgive the most heinous person that hurts and offends...not in and of themselves...but by the power of God.

There is no greater joy in life that releasing others who have hurt and offended you and

brought pain upon your life. Forgiveness is accompanied by the ability to enjoy each and every day. It allows a person to live completely at peace with one's self, as well as others. Forgiveness is not something we "strive for", but is "freely given" based on the precious blood of Christ. The wonder of Christ living in us is this...we have been given the "power and authority" under God to forgive and release every person that has caused harm and hurt in our lives...all because of Jesus living "in us".