

THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL

The context of 2 Corinthians 9.10-15 centers around the fellowship that brethren enjoy because of their fellowship with God made possible by the gift of forgiveness through Jesus. The fact that the Corinthian brethren made up of mostly Gentiles were willing to help the needy saints in Judea was “*proof of this ministry*” (2 Cor. 9.13). It was the evidence of their spiritual connection. That led Paul to write, “*Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!*” (2 Cor. 9.15).

The word translated as “indescribable” is translated from three different Greek words. The root word means “to narrate thoroughly.” It is the idea of telling the entire story. Attached to the word is the preposition “ek” meaning “out.” When you put those two words together, the word translated as “indescribable” means literally, “to tell out the entire story.” But there is a third word. It is the letter “a” which negates the word. This is a word that refers to the inability to tell the complete story. There is a gift that is indescribable. There are no words spoken in any language that can truly capture its scope.

What is this gift? The gift is not the financial aid that was offered by the Corinthians. The gift was not the relationship that was shared among individuals who had little in common. The gift was not even the gift of Jesus. The gift that was so wonderful that words fail to capture it was the gift of forgiveness made available to us through the sacrifice and shed blood of Jesus. There are no words that can truly capture how incredible this gift of forgiveness is that brings together Jew and Gentile alike into fellowship with God and with each other.

Nothing that I have written in this bulletin, nothing that I can say in a sermon, and nothing that I can teach in a Bible class can fully express this amazing gift of salvation. But when we understand the connection that we have with one another because of this gift, it moves us to give to our fellow brethren. We help one another financially, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually because of the gift we received that brings us all together.

This fellowship with each other that comes from our fellowship with God moved the Christians in Judea to express “*many thanksgivings toward God*” and “*glorify God*” (2 Cor. 9.12,13). When you and I appreciate the gift that cannot be fully articulated, we cannot help but come to God in worship. CLP

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST
2424 McCARRAN ST.
NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89030
(702) 642-3141

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WWW.NLVCHURCHOFCHRIST.COM

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. † North Las Vegas, NV † 89030
Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: pruittl@nlvchurchofchrist.com
Watch us live at www.nlvchurchofchrist.com
Facebook: Northside Las Vegas Church of Christ

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

December 7, 2025

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

Spiritual Blessing in Christ

The blessings that are enjoyed by Christians are not limited to those in eternity. Christians do not need to wait for death or the day of judgment and entrance into heaven to enjoy the things Christ has to offer. The apostle Paul wrote to the young preacher Timothy of the “*promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come*” (2 Tim. 4.8). There are blessings found in having a home in heaven. But there are also blessings related to the life that now is (cf. Heb. 6.9).

We sometimes sing the song, “Count Your Many Blessings.” Time and space will not permit me to list all the blessings we have in this life connected with our relationship with God. We can mention peace of mind (John 14.27; Phil. 4.6,7). We can mention overflowing joy (John 15.11; 1 John 1.4). We can mention the relationships we have with fellow Christians (Eph. 2.19).

The blessings that abound are only available to those who are in Christ. To the Ephesians Paul wrote about God “*who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ*” (Eph. 1.3). The way to get in Christ is to be baptized (Gal. 3.27).

What a privilege it is to be called a child of God and be the recipient of innumerable spiritual blessings in Christ. Have you responded to His gospel invitation? CLP

UNDERSTANDING PROPITIATION

ROMANS 3:25

INTRODUCTION:

1. The word “propitiation” is difficult both to say and to understand. It is only found four times in all of the Bible.
2. **Romans 3.23-26:** Here are our words related to salvation.

I. SCRIPTURES

- A. **Romans 3.25:** “whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness”
- B. **Hebrews 2.17:** “a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins”
- C. **1 John 2.2:** “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”
- D. **1 John 4.10:** “but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

II. DEFINITION

- A. The word defined.
 1. Propitiation: “the act of propitiating” [Dictionary.com]
 2. Hilastarion: “mercy; appeasement.” (Isa. 53.5; Ps. 7.11)
- B. The word illustrated.
 1. **Hebrews 9.2-7:** The day of atonement.
 2. **Hebrews 9.8,9:** “It was symbolic” (Heb. 10.1,4)
 3. **Hebrews 9.11,12:** Christ is the reality.

III. EXPLANATION

- A. **Romans 11.22:** “Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God.” Literally, understand fully.
 1. Goodness (chrestotes): His kindness. (Rom. 2.4)
 2. Severity (apotomes): His cutting way from.
- B. Propitiation is God’s severity being satisfied so that I can now enjoy His goodness.

IV. APPLICATION

- A. Propitiation changes the way I see God.
- B. When we understand propitiation, we will serve Him not out of fear, but out of love. (1 John 4.19)

CONCLUSION: The saved once knew His severity, but now they know His goodness. Are you among the saved?

THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL

What is the greatest gift ever given? What is the greatest gift ever received? In 2 Corinthians 9.15, the Holy Spirit guides the hand of the apostle Paul to write, “*Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!*”

Contextually, we are reading about the financial gifts that were being given to the church in Jerusalem. The brethren in Jerusalem found themselves in need after a severe famine. In Acts 11, we are told that “*the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea*” (Acts 11.29). There was a coordinated effort by the apostles to collect the money that was set aside by the various congregations and bring it “*to the elders by the hands of Paul and Barnabas*” (Acts 11.30). In 2 Corinthians 8,9, Paul is writing to the Corinthian church who seem to be delaying in their collection.

In these two chapters, Paul is encouraging them to do “*what you began and were desiring to do a year ago*” (2 Cor. 8.10). He uses other congregations as examples and encouragement (2 Cor. 8.1-5). He writes about the example of Jesus who gave Himself so that “*you through His poverty might become rich*” (2 Cor. 8.9). He writes about their own example and what they show to the world by their giving (2 Cor. 8.24). He writes about the attitude they needed to manifest (2 Cor. 9.6-9).

When you come toward the end of chapter 9, there is a shift from financial giving to the gift of God. There is a direct connection between their liberal monetary gift and the gift of forgiveness they received from God through Jesus. Paul writes that their giving aid to those in Judea not only helps the needy saints, they give thanks to God (2 Cor. 9.12), and they glorify God (2 Cor. 9.13). Specifically, they express thanksgiving and give glory to God for two reasons. First, they glorify God because of their “*obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ*” (2 Cor. 9.13). To put it another way, they were thankful that the brethren in Corinth had obeyed the gospel. Second, they glorified God “*for your liberal sharing with them and all men*” (2 Cor. 9.13). It was their relationship with God and the fellowship that they share with fellow Christians that moved them to offer this financial gift.

The monetary gift that was offered by the brethren in Corinth was proof of their relationship with God through Christ (2 Cor. 9.13). Knowing that there were fellow brethren in Christ who cared enough for them to help them in their needs, the brethren in Judea prayed for them and longed for them (2 Cor. 9.14). There was this wonderful relationship that these brethren enjoyed together. There was a connection between them because of the gift of salvation which connected them to God. This beautiful connection resulted in Paul himself giving thanks and glory to God saying, “*Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!*” (2 Cor. 9.15).

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