

The Gift of Jesus Christ

Note: This is the 1st of 3 articles on “Gifts in Scripture”

Among all the gifts God has given, none is greater than the gift of His Son. Every breath we take and every blessing we enjoy comes from God’s gracious hand, but above every earthly blessing stands Jesus Christ. Paul wrote, **“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”** (2 Corinthians 9:15, NKJV). The fullness of God’s love, mercy, wisdom, and grace is seen most clearly in Christ.

Long before Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Isaiah wrote, **“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given”** (Isaiah 9:6, NKJV). A child would be born, but a Son would be given. Jesus came into the world as a child, born of Mary, but He was already the eternal Son of God. He was not merely a good man who became important; He was God’s Son sent from heaven for the salvation of mankind.

John 3:16 expresses this gift beautifully: **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”**. God gave because God loved. Christ was not given because man deserved Him, but because man desperately needed Him. Sin had separated man from God, and no human being could remove his own guilt, purchase his own pardon, or build his own way back to heaven. Therefore, God gave what man could never provide for himself.

Jesus is the gift because He is the Savior. The angel told Joseph, **“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins”** (Matthew 1:21). His mission was not earthly fame, political power, or worldly comfort. He came to save sinners. He came to seek the lost, reveal the Father, fulfill the Scriptures, die upon the cross, and rise again in victory over death.

The gift of Jesus Christ also reveals the seriousness of sin. Paul wrote, **“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”** (Romans 5:8). The cross shows both the terrible cost of sin and the immeasurable love of God. At Calvary, Jesus did not merely speak of love; He demonstrated it by giving Himself.

This is why salvation is found only in Christ. Peter declared, **“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved”** (Acts 4:12). Jesus is not one Savior among many. He is the one Savior God has given. No prophet, preacher, philosopher, religious tradition, or human goodness can take His place.

How does one receive this gift? The Bible teaches that Christ is received through obedient faith. Faith is more than agreeing that Jesus exists. It trusts Him, submits to Him, and obeys His gospel. Jesus asked, **“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”** (Luke 6:46).

On Pentecost, sinners convicted by the gospel asked, **“Men and brethren, what shall we do?”** Peter answered, **“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins”** (Acts 2:37–38). Acts 2:41 then says, **“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized”**. They did not earn Christ; no one can. Salvation is by grace. But they received God’s grace by obeying the gospel.

Who may receive this gift? John 3:16 answers, **“whoever.”** The gift of Christ is offered to all—Jew and Gentile, rich and poor, young and old, moral and immoral. The blood of Christ is powerful enough to cleanse every sinner who comes to Him in obedient faith.

A gift offered may still be refused. To reject Christ through unbelief, indifference, or disobedience is to reject heaven’s greatest gift. God gave His Son. Christ gave His life. The gospel has been revealed. The invitation still stands.

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”

~ Ron Josselet