

## 2 Corinthians 9:15

Sunday 12/25/2022

We are glad you are here today. I want to thank you all for being here. As I said before we got to this day, it is important with your children. I know it is a fun day for them, and it should be. All of us growing up enjoyed Christmas and everything that is connected with it. But I think it is so important for them to understand that there is no day on this earth that is more important than the day the church is to meet together to preach and teach the Word of God. I think it is a good example to your children and a good teaching lesson, if you know how to use it, to help them to see and understand. As parents today, you have to use every angle at your disposal to have your kids see what life is really all about.

Like all our holidays today, this is a time for family and friends. It is what I get out of it, and I know that most of you do too. Yes, it is a time for giving and a time for gifts. This day has been associated with the birth of Christ ever since around 400 A.D., some 400 years after He was actually born. They began to put it together, and it is celebrated all over the world. For me, it is a fun time to give to others. I try to give to everybody whatever they need whenever I can, whenever I see the need. But things like Christmas, everything is open. You just want to take care of those who let them know how much you appreciate them and what they have done for you and how special they are. It is a time for our kids, and yes, us big kids too.

But like everything else, so many times the real emphasis behind everything today will get lost in all of the hype that goes on at Christmas. For me, I do not need December 25th to take time to reflect on the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. Every day of my life, I think about it. Everything that I face, every failure that I have in my own life, I stop and ponder why He would even come for somebody like me. To me, it is an amazing thing that is not just set aside. That is what most people do. We are so time-oriented. When it comes to the things of God or the Bible or Christ or whatever, we will just give Him a day. I could just never do that. Every day of my life, I think about it. I think about where I would be without His coming into this world. It has nothing to do with December 25th. It has nothing to do with Christmas, but it has everything to do with my salvation. Most certainly, the first coming of Christ changed the whole world forever, one way or the other.

I know you kids have a big day ahead of you, receiving your presents when you get home. Probably most of you were already up early and opened them, and you cannot wait to get back home to them. I get that. Believe me, at my house, they were there at 8:30 this morning. When my girls were growing up, it was four o'clock in the morning. That is where they coined the term, "Oh dark thirty." They always got me up with a cup of coffee to get my heart started. I know how it goes. I know how it is. I have to get you out of here today, and I want you to go home and enjoy your family and your friends and all this day. But I just want you to remember some things about this day.

If I could today, just for a few minutes, I want to talk to you children for a moment. I am also going to talk to the parents, and I know that some of you are single, you are not married yet, so I want to talk to you. And you couples that maybe do not have any kids yet, I want to talk to you.

And families, I want to talk to you. I want to talk to everybody today. I want to talk to you about putting this time of the year, this day, into a proper context. You know me, I am big on context.

## I. The Greatest Gift: Your Parents

Now let me talk to you kids. I am glad you are all in here. All your kids are here. Everybody is here today with the kids and everything. I am glad you are all here. But first off, I want you to understand. I know you got a lot of things at home. You got a lot of nice presents today, all of that. I know there are a lot of things under the tree waiting for you that you want to get back to. But I want you to leave here today and understand that outside the Bible, outside anything that God has given you spiritually speaking, the greatest gift that you ever have was your parents. The fact that you have a mom and a dad that loves you. The fact that you have a mom and a dad that cares for you. You will never know until you are older. I wish you could understand it now, but I did not, and I know you do not. But sometime in your life, you are going to look back and you are going to realize all the sacrifices that they made for you. You are going to realize all the things that you got something, but they paid the price for it. At some point in your life, you are going to learn to appreciate that. I wish that at your young age now, you could do it. Maybe every once in a while you will find a kid that can, but in most cases that does not happen today until you get a little older. Unfortunately, sometimes it does not even happen then.

They are for sure your parents. We hear of this phrase, "the gift that keeps on giving." That is your parents. Because all of your life, they are going to keep on giving to you everything that you need. So many times kids get so indifferent to that. A lot of it comes because of the world we live in today. A lot of it comes because of the entitlement that we think that we should have because of everything that is in the world today. That is simply not true. The greatest gift you will ever have in your life is your mom and your dad. Because God gave them to you, and they are there for you, and they take care of you.

Having said that, I have been in this business a long time, and this is a terrible thing to have to say, but it is a true thing. I know that for some of you young men and some of you young ladies, you do not have a mom and dad. Or you do, but who knows where they are at. They are out of your life. They have never really provided anything for you. You may sit there today and feel bad because of the fact that I am talking about the moms and the dads that other kids have that you really do not have. Wait a minute. Do you know what the greatest gift God ever gave you? It was the men and women in this church that took you into their family. It was the couples that made you part of their family. They may not be your biological mom and dad, but they are your mom and dad in the Lord. They have made up the difference of what you did not get in a physical life. That is a great gift to you.

I do not care where you are at in life. I do not care what you face in life. When you belong to the Lord Jesus Christ, He takes care of His own. You young men and young ladies, when you do not have a real mom and dad that loves God and does everything and has been there for you, and you do not even know where they are at maybe, and that happens, God always will take care of you and give you your family right here. It is one of the great things about this church. I see it all the time. You couples, you young men, you young single guys, you young single girls taking the kids

in this church and doing for them what they would never have if it was not for you. I see that all the time. But I have to tell you, you cannot teach somebody that. That comes from you getting the Lord in your own life and growing in the Word of God and realizing that all that you have that God has given to you, you look around you and you find the occasion to give it to somebody else. I appreciate that. God will put a special family in your life if He does not have one, and that will be your gift. Just like those who have your family that are here today and you are going to go home with, and maybe they are around this country, but you love them very much, and they love you.

I know this to be true. Your parents think that you are the best gift God ever gave them. When you have that mindset, that parents never forget that their kids are the best gift that they have got, and the kids never forget that their parents are the best gift that God ever gave them, it does not get any better than that. Some of you, and I stand in awe of you and you have my utmost respect, I watch you folks who adopt children. It takes a special kind of person to be able to do that. I know Chris and Terry, you are in the process of yours, and you will make great parents. That kid will be street preaching when he is four. Greg over in St. Louis, who we pray for, he has adopted children. Lauren and Barb Nihard, I went to breakfast with Lauren a couple of weeks ago, and he was telling me that his kids are in the process of taking and adopting four kids. What a gift that must be to you today. I watch you guys with them, and it is just an amazing thing. So to you kids, do not forget the greatest gift you have is your mom and your dad in the midst of all that is going on today. If I could suggest to you sometime today, crawl up into their lap and whisper in their ear just how much you love them and how much they mean to you. I do not care if you are five or you are 55, they need to know because the greatest gift outside of God's salvation and all spiritual things speaking, God gave you was your parents.

Lauren Nihard, when we went out to breakfast that morning, he told me something that was one of the greatest things I ever heard, man. It is so true. We were sitting there eating breakfast and talking about a lot of different things, and it came down to kids and his kids. He has got great kids. He said, "You know," he says, "I have learned something, Bob." He says, "If you raise and train your kids right, then you will get the privilege of spoiling them and your grandkids. But if you do not raise your kids right, and you wind up spoiling them, all you are going to do is wind up raising your grandkids." That is so true.

## II. God's Unspeakable Gift

Then for us as adults, God has given us the greatest gift ever. Many times with all we have in life, we forget the gift and lose our appreciation of what it really means to us. The Bible says in Matthew 7:11:

*Matthew 7:11*

*If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?*

What He is basically saying there is, if you and I as sinners can have the love and the care to give gifts to not only your children, but to each other, how much more must God love humanity and

man to give him their gift? In Luke 11:13, He really defines what He says there because He says the same verse, but there He says the gift is defined as the Holy Spirit of God.

*Luke 11:13*

*If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*

Now spiritually speaking, this is the gift that keeps on giving, the one that God gave us. I want to build God's gift to me and to you around just one word today. I heard someone give a devotion a while back, and I was kind of over in the corner when they were saying it, and I heard them say it, and I thought to myself, "You know what, I am going to steal that." It was one of the best things that I ever heard. I want to build today what I want to talk to you about one word, and it is the word "unspeakable." You only find the word "unspeakable" three times in the whole Bible.

"Unspeakable" means, and I do not mean to insult your intelligence, you know what it means. It means something that is so incredible and glorious and of such dimension that there are really no words to really describe it. For sure, all that God has done for all of us, words could never be enough to describe or to explain it. I will tell you what it takes. It takes a committed life. It takes somebody who has trusted Christ as their own personal Savior. God has changed their life, changed their perspective, changed everything about them. Now it is not just what you say, but it is what you live. More people have been won to Christ and influenced to do the right thing by how people live their lives more than they ever do it by what someone else says. It takes a committed life to do it.

In my life, I learned much from the men who taught me things about the Bible, but I learned a greater amount by watching the consistency of their lives. Watching that what they preached was really what they lived. They did not pick and choose whatever they wanted to do. The Bible was the Bible. They followed it to the letter, and it was that great appreciation that I had for them that taught me more than what they ever said. Talk is cheap, but as Paul said to the church at Corinth in 2 Corinthians 8:8-9, we need to prove the sincerity of our love. You do not do that by what you say, because what Christ has done for you and for me is unspeakable.

The first time I want to find it in the Bible will be in 2 Corinthians 9:15. He says here:

*2 Corinthians 9:15*

*Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.*

Let us pray. Father, we thank You and praise You today for the Lord Jesus. Help us today to put all of this together to give us a clear presentation of today. In spite of all of the fun things that we do, the food and the festivities and the gifts, let us never forget the greatest gift that man ever received. It did not come from another man of this earth, but came from the God-man, the Lord Jesus Christ. Help us today. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name. For His sake we ask it. Amen.

This will be the greatest gift of mankind ever: God giving us His Son, Christ coming down to man to die for our sins. It is called the gift of God in Ephesians 2:8. In Luke chapter 2, we read

the story of the birth of Christ. He is in a manger in Bethlehem. The Bible tells us that He wound up in a stable because there was no room in the inn. It was a period of time when everybody had to go to pay their taxes, and the town was filled with people, and they could not get a room. I have always found that very fitting that when the greatest gift of mankind came, He was born in a stable because there was no room in the inn for Him. I always thought that was very fitting for His life and His death for me.

First off, the Bible says there was no room in the inn. How prophetic that is because all down through history and certainly today, most of God's people do not have any room in their life for Him either. We fill our life with everything else we have, but when it comes to the Lord Jesus Christ, no vacancy, no room in the inn. I have always thought that was an amazing thing. I always thought that was so prophetic of how it was going to wind up when He did finally die on the cross.

Then the second thing I see in Luke chapter 2, when that baby was born, they wrapped Him in swaddling clothes. Most people do not think much about swaddling clothes because you buy Pampers, you buy all the diaper things that you have, and you ladies send your husband out to get diapers when you have a baby. Guys, just a little bit of an insight here: when you buy the diapers and it says for 10 or 15 or 20 pounds, that is not how much it holds. That is how big the baby is when you buy them for them. Guys get messed up on that sometime. But I looked at that when He was wrapped in swaddling clothes. Swaddling clothes are grave clothes. When a man died back in that period of time, they wrapped his body in swaddling cloth or swaddling clothes. So right out of the gate when I see in Luke chapter 2 the birth of the greatest gift that God gave man, I see that there is no room for Him in this world. I also see that He was born to die, wrapped in swaddling clothes. When you experience His salvation and understand the price that was paid, it is unspeakable. Words would fail me today to convey all of what Christ has done for us on the cross. We can talk to people all the time, especially in the world that we live in. There is so much up against the word of what Christ has done. The only true way to explain it is to see the change in somebody's life. It is only through a committed life of a living sacrifice, as Romans 12 says, that it could ever be understood. Words are simply not enough.

### III. The Unspeakable Word of God

Then the second thing, you find that in 2 Corinthians 12:4. This is Paul speaking:

*2 Corinthians 12:2-4*

*I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.*

*And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)*

*How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.*

You see, the gift that keeps on giving is not only did God give us His Son, which is an unspeakable gift, but then He gave us His Word. How can you explain the Word of God? It is

unlike any other book the world has ever seen. He gave man His unspeakable gift, and now here He says that the Word of God is the unspeakable Word of God. The Bible is the most incredible book that ever came to this planet. I know most people do not see it that way. Most people do not understand it. To them, they have had a Bible somewhere in their life, all their lives, but they have never understood the value of it. It is a book that every other book that has been written by man, that book that God gave us, the unspeakable one, can dissect and judge everything for truth. It is the absolute standard for life on planet earth. It is the greatest history book the world has ever seen. It is the greatest science book the world has ever seen. It is the greatest children's book the world has ever seen. Yet, it can reach down and touch the heart of the most tenderest child, but at the same time, it can go on the level with the greatest minds of this world and deal with them both.

It is the greatest book on life. The great issues that you and I face in life, the problems that we have in life, let us be honest today, our problems that we have in life are simply there because we have made bad choices. It is not a criticism. I have made them. We have all made them. The difference is, sooner or later, you have to get a hold of the book that will help you. You will never make any more bad choices again. I deal with people all the time who have lives that are shattered and cluttered and all kinds of issues, and I try to help them when I can. You take somebody that has been in a situation for 30, 40 years, you are not going to fix it in 20 minutes. But I will tell you what I always tell them. I will say, "We cannot go back and fix everything in your life right now, but I will tell you what we can do. If we can just start doing one thing, in time, we will get through out of everything that you are going through." Do you know what that one thing is? Simply stop making bad choices. How do you do that? You have got to get a book that is unspeakable. You have got to get a book that the world does not understand. You have got to get a book that God gave us as the gift that keeps on giving. He gave us a Son. Now He gives us His Word. That book will get you through. It is unspeakable because it is unsearchable. It has no bottom to it. It is everything that you and I need for every problem that we have.

#### IV. Unspeakable Joy

Then the third time you find it in the Word of God will be found in 1 Peter 1:8-9. Here He says, "See?" The gift that keeps on giving. God gives us His Son. From that we get the unspeakable Word of God. And now from the first two comes unspeakable joy. How do you explain to somebody what joy is? The world has an understanding of the word "happiness." Everybody today wants to be happy. Nobody really is, but everybody wants to be happy. The problem with happiness is the compound of the word. Happiness depends on the happenings. So when you have a good happening, you are happy. When you have a bad happening, you are not happy. Of course, there is no real happiness in the world today. It is all temporary. On your best day, as happy as you could be, people are happy the day they get married. Ask them if they are still as happy four or five years later. People are happy when they go buy a new car. Ask them if they are still happy when the fenders are rusting out and the engine blows up and they have got to buy another car. Happiness in this world is temporary, folks. It is based on the happenings. When it happens good, you are great. When it happens bad, you are unhappy. There has to be something that is consistent. That is joy. Joy will bring you through, but nothing else will.

We are looking at Christmas right now. I saw a poll yesterday that 72% of the people getting Christmas gifts are confused and disappointed by what they have got. The same poll said 40% were insulted by the gift that they got. In other words, everybody looks at today, Christmas, and judges the success of it on whether you like the gift or not you got. The truth of the matter is, my friend, the greatest gift this world ever got was the Lord Jesus Christ. He will never let you down. That is where the joy comes in. You see, joy is something the world will never understand. It is unspeakable. How do you explain joy? You cannot even explain this to a lot of God's people, let alone an unsaved person. How do you explain joy? You cannot. Do you know how you really do explain joy? By being in your life and other people seeing it. When their world falls apart, and you have your troubles in your life, joy carries you through. You see, happiness is built on the happening, joy is built on the promises of the Word of God. No matter how bad my life gets or whatever problems may come into it, the joy resides in the fact that I have got a book that is unspeakable, that came from the gift that was unspeakable, that will get me through everything in my life. I know that it is true. And there rests my joy.

Joy comes back to the unspeakable Word. When the happenings of life are good, people are happy. When they are not good, then they are unhappy. Joy is based, as I said, on the promises of God. Because in the principles of the Word of God, you learn the great truth of Romans 8:28:

*Romans 8:28*

*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

Even the bad things. You know what? Joy is the root element of my relationship with Christ, knowing that whatever happens today or tomorrow, I do not have to be afraid of it. I do not have to worry about it. Do you know why? Joy, that God has got it all under control, even though I do not like it, even though I do not understand it. I rest in the fact, and my joy is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness, just like my faith. You see, joy will sustain you when nothing else will, and how can you explain that? You cannot. It is unspeakable.

## V. Living the Unspeakable Gift

In all three of these, words will never be enough. Words will never convince anybody. Words will never give the true reason for the joy, the true reason for the Word of God, the true reason for Christ's death on the cross, but seeing is believing. Only a life that is committed to Christ, and through those three areas of unspeakable gifts, without saying a word, allowing the world to not hear what you say, but see who you really are. The joy that sustains you is through tough times, deep trials, death of a loved one, all there by the promises of the Word of God.

You see, God's people do not get this. I do not expect unsaved people to get it, but God's people do not get it. You and me, we are the only Bible that the world is reading. Our life is the only sermon that the world should be heeding, for we have the truth that the world is so desperately needing. Today, with all that we have and will be doing today, let us not forget the greatest gift to all of us. It is the unspeakable gift of God's Son, certainly the icon of the gift that keeps on giving, the real true gift that never stops. Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.

Back when Paul was dealing with the Church of Corinth, he told them in 2 Corinthians 3:2 that their lives were a book. He said that your life is an epistle, written on your hearts that is read of all men. No truer words were ever spoken, because that is where the real explaining of the unspeakable will take place. Today, with the greatest gift from God to man, we stop and think that, as Romans says, no man liveth to himself and no man dieth to himself. Somebody is always watching your life. Somebody is always reading your book. If you are saved today, you are the epistle, written on your hearts that men read. You have to ask yourself, I mean, I ask myself, what do men see when they read your epistle?

- Do they see a love story? You and Christ? Him in love with you? You in love with Him?
- Or do they see a drama? A life so messed up and cluttered with all the bad decisions that you have made that every day of your life there is a new drama that somebody has to deal with.
- Maybe they see a mystery. You do not really know who you are in Christ either. You live one life on Sunday and another life Monday through Saturday.
- Maybe when they read your epistle, it is a science fiction book. They are really wondering what planet you live on.
- Maybe when they read my epistle or your epistle, it is a fairy tale. Nothing in it is real. Oh yeah, you live your life like Cinderella, and you live your life in this great fairy tale, and then one time at midnight the carriage turns into a pumpkin and the prince turns into a frog and you just kissed him. Fairy tale, not even real.
- Maybe our life is a comic book. It is just a joke.
- Maybe it is a horror story. A life of total disaster running from church to church, issue to issue, like Halloween 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Jason and Freddy Krueger are always right there around the corner.

What do they read when they see us? Whatever it is, as I said, no man liveth to himself and no man dieth to himself. So as Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:14, and I understand the context, he said to Timothy, "Do not neglect the gift that is in you." The greatest gift that is in you, and I understand he is talking about the gift of ministry here, but he did not get that gift on his own. He got that gift because he received God's greatest gift. When we all got saved, there was a gift involved, the gift of the Holy Spirit of God, the gift of the Word of God, the gift of the joy, and it is all unspeakable as far as me trying to explain it to you. Or you trying to explain it to whoever, the only way that they will ever see it and understand it is to watch the change in your life. If it is real, that is where they will see it. Not by what you say, but by the real change of what you do with the Word of God.

## VI. Rejecting God's Gifts

The day after Christmas, everybody returns the gifts. There are a number of reasons for it. "Well, it does not fit me. I do not like the color. It is just not me. I do not really need it." Yet, so many of God's people will reject God's gifts for the same reason. "It does not fit me," meaning it does not fit your lifestyle. "Do not like the color." It is blood red. "It is just not me" because you are in the world and somebody changed your name. "I do not really need it." That is what the Laodicean church says in Revelation chapter 3 when they say they have need of nothing. God's people do the same thing with the greatest gift that God ever gave man.

So remember today, the greatest gift you have did not cost you anything. It is a true gift. Somebody else paid the price for it, but when Christ paid the price for it, it cost God everything. So think about it today. You kids, you thank your mom and dad. I come up to you kids all the time, all of you, and I ask you, right in front of your mom or your dad, I ask you, "Are you being good to your mom and dad? Are you being good to your mom? Are you being good to your dad?" I will put you on the spot. Do you know why? Because you need to realize the gift that God gave you in your parents. But then all of us need to realize the gift that God gave us through His Son and then through His Word and then the joy that comes from it, then it is unspeakable. You will try to use words the rest of your life to convince people it is real, and they will never believe you because the only thing that really will prove that it is real is how you live your life. Did it change you?

Let us pray. Father, we thank You and praise You, Father, Lord Jesus. We do love You. We thank You, Father, for all You do and for everything that You mean for us today. We thank You for this time. We have set aside, and may the message of today touch the hearts of Your people that it is fine to have a fun day. It is fine to enjoy everything that we have. It is fine to be all the fun and the games and the food and the presents and the gifts. It is all okay. I am looking forward to it. But in all of that, never let us forget. Never let these kids forget the greatest gift they have is their parents. And the parents realize to train their kids right. The greatest gift they have is the Son of God, the Word of God, and the joy that comes through those two. Thank You, Father. We ask all these things now in Jesus' name. For His sake, we ask it. Amen.