

Sunday 11/08/2020

Our Verses for the day: 1 Peter 5:8-9 (KJV) ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: ⁹ Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Our devotion today as with each Saturday is an outline of the message at Belfield Baptist Church for November 8, 2020.

AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

James 1:14-21, 2 COR. 9:15

An attitude of gratitude can be detected in all the writings of the Apostle Paul and throughout the Bible. **He was grateful beyond words to God for His mercy and grace through Christ Jesus.**

The apostle lived and labored in order that his life might express the gratitude of his heart.

When Paul tried to express his gratitude in words, he found that his vocabulary was inadequate and so we have the words in our text today: **Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.** (2 Corinthians 9:15)

To recognize the greatness of God's generosity toward us, through Jesus, can stimulate an attitude of gratitude within our hearts also. James goes into more detail: James 1:17-22 ¹⁷ **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.** ¹⁸ **Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.** ¹⁹ **Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:** ²⁰ **For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.** ²¹ **Wherefore lay**

apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. ²² But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

GRATITUDE is one of the strongest motives for service beyond the call of duty. We need to recognize and appreciate God's generosity in order that our own faith might be encouraged.

LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS GIFT FOR A FEW MINUTES

I. THE NATURE OF GOD'S UNSPEAKABLE GIFT:

A. It is unspeakable in its greatness.

B. It is unspeakable in its freeness.

C. Unspeakable is our need for it.

D. Unspeakable in its availability to man once he recognizes his

need for the forgiveness of sin and the gift of new life.

E. Unspeakable in its effects upon the lives of those who respond to it:

... transformed, renewed unique way of life.

II. A GIFT REQUIRES A RESPONSE

A. One may ignore God's gift in Christ Jesus. It is possible for a person to treat a gift as if it had never been offered.

To do so is to insult the one who seeks to bestow the gift.

B. One may deliberately decline God's gift. To do so is to snub

the giver.

C. One may formally accept God's gift without and thought of

using it.

1. Have you received God's gift as you would receive a book without any intentions of reading it.

2. Have you received God's gift as if it were no more than a trinket that you would never care to wear. Most does.

D. One may accept God's gift gladly, gratefully, and wholeheartedly.

1. He is the water of life for a thirsty Man. John 4:14

But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

2. He is the bread of life for those who are aware of their spiritual hunger.

John 6:35 **And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.**

3. He is health to those who recognize the sickness of the soul.

1 Peter 2:24 **Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.**

4. He is a rescue to the lost man. Luke 19:10 **For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.**

5. He is the teacher of all knowledge about heaven and about

The truth of life. Matthew 4:23 **Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.**

6. He is the friend who loved us enough to the extent that he died upon the cross.

Romans 5:8 **But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

III. WHAT IS OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GIFT?

1. Have we ignored the Christ?
2. Have we rejected the Christ?
3. Have we neglected the Christ?
4. Have we made him the Lord of our life so that He can be our redeemer, our Saviour and our friend?

Yes, the gift is unspeakable, but acceptable.

The question is HOW ARE WE USING THE GIFT?

It has been offered, Once and only once.

As we move through COVID-19, let each one of us go hand in hand and be thankful for this special gift, Jesus Christ.

Today, November 7, as you pray, pray for the pastors that will be preaching the Bible tomorrow, November 8.

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