

## GOD'S GOOD GIFTS

### Int.

1. Aim: To show that God has given many good gifts to all of us if we will only accept them.
2. Jas. 1:17 nkjv "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.."
  - a. The devil tries to convince men that sin offers the best life to men
  - b. Satan tries to deceive men into believing that God is withholding good things from man.
  - c. But this verse says that every good gift and every perfect gift is from above.
3. God has given something good to everyone.
  - a. Gifts show interest and love for others - Some gifts all enjoy.
  - b. Life - Ecl. 12:7 "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."
  - c. Rain and sunshine - Mt. 5:45 "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."
  - d. Food - comes from the earth, the rain and the many things God has provided
  - e. Acts 14:17 "Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."
4. Some of God's gifts all enjoy but other gifts are only for his children!!
  - a. These are the spiritual gifts for our soul. Soul more valuable than body. Mt. 16:26
  - b. We can accept them or reject them !
  - c. Some gifts are only given when we ask - Mt. 7:7-11

## Discussion

### I. CHRIST IS GOD'S GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT

#### A. Christ is God's good gift of love

1. God had not wronged man, but man had rebelled against God
  - a. Isa. 59:1-2 "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid [his] face from you, that he will not hear."
  - b. Rom. 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; "
2. Men were dying in sin - Rom. 6:23 "For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
3. God's love provided the remedy - Jn. 3:14-17 "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.** 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."
4. Christ is God's good gift because men needed him

## B. Christ is God's perfect gift

1. Book of Hebrews exalts Christ
  - a. Greater than Angels - Heb. 1:4-8
  - b. Greater mediator than Moses - Heb. 3:1-6
  - c. Greater High priest than Aaron - Heb. 7:1,2,4
  - d. Greater Sacrifice - He died one time for sins of all time - Heb. 9:24-28
2. Christ has the words of eternal life - Jn. 6:68 "Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life."
3. He can save all who will obey - Heb. 5:8,9

## II. THE BIBLE IS GOD'S GOOD GIFT

### A. Bible is a gift from God

1. II Tim. 3:16-17 = inspired of God = God breathed
  - a. Evil men would not write the Bible - it has too many restrictions that evil men reject and it has commands they will not obey.
  - b. Good men, without God's aid, could not have written the Bible.
2. The bible is a gift from God to men through men
  - a. It is divine in origin and human as to medium - Mat. 1:22 "Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,"
  - b. The apostles wrote the commands of the lord
    - (1) II Cor. 4:7 nkjv "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us."

(2) I Cor. 14:37 "If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.."

### 3. The Bible is verbally inspired

- a. 2 Pet. 1:20-21 asv "knowing this first, that no prophecy of scripture is of private interpretation. 21 For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit. "
- b. The bible did not come by men alone
- c. God spoke to man and told man what to write. The Bible is as much God's word as if He spoke to man orally.

## B. The Bible is a good gift

### 1. Man needed the bible and still does

- a. Man needed something to direct him in life - Jer. 10:23 "O LORD, I know that the way of man [is] not in himself: [it is] not in man that walketh to direct his steps."
- b. Bible is a lamp and light - Ps. 119:105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."
- c. Power in God'[s word to save men from sin
  - (1) Jas. 1:21 "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls."

(2) Rom. 1:16

(3) Heb. 4:12 "For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

2. For the Bible to be a good gift – men must:

- a. Understand God's word - Eph. 5:17 - the Bible was written in human language so man can understand.
- b. Man must study in order to understand
- c. Man must rightly divide the Word. 2 Tim. 2:15
  - (1) Tell the difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant
  - (2) Distinguish between the commands to alien sinners, erring Christians and faithful Christians.

### **III. SALVATION IS GOD'S GOOD GIFT**

A. **The purpose of God's good gifts of Christ and the Bible is salvation**

1. Salvation means = deliverance, preservation
  - a. Deliverance from bondage and consequences of sins
  - b. Future deliverance into heaven
  - c. Preservation of the soul
2. Salvation is a gift from God - Eph. 2:8-9 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

## B. Is Salvation a conditional or unconditional gift?

1. If unconditional then all will be saved
  - a. Tit. 2:11 - grace of God has brought salvation to all "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men."
  - b. II Pet. 3:9 - If salvation depended wholly upon God, then all would be saved.
  
2. Salvation is conditional
  - a. The question "What must I do to be saved?" Acts 16:30 implies that salvation is conditional.
  - b. We may neglect salvation - Heb. 2:1-4 "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation;...."
  - c. Only the obedient are saved - Heb. 5:8-9 - this indicates that salvation is conditioned upon our obedience.
  
3. Conditions are means to an end
  - a. Faith justifies - but Christ is the savior
    - (1) Rom. 5:1 "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"
    - (2) Mt. 1:21 "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."
  - b. Repentance saves -but Repentance is not the savior - II Pet. 3:9
  - c. Confession saves - but Confession is not the Savior - Rom. 10:10

d. Baptism saves - but Christ is the savior -

(1) I Pet. 3:20,21 "Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. 21 The like figure whereunto [even] **baptism doth also now save us** (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"

(2) Mt. 1:21

4. Conditions do not nullify fact of a gift

a. God gives man air to breathe, man's breathing does not nullify the gift

b. God gives man food, but laboring for the food does not nullify the fact of a gift - and we give thanks to God for our food.

c. Obedience enables man to accept what God's grace offers, — Salvation

5. Man is unable to save himself by his intellect, power, position, wealth or morality.

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Sin offers gifts to people:

a. Pleasure, thrill and enjoyment of sin - Heb. 11:24,25 "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;"

b. But sin's gifts are neither perfect nor complete

c. God's gifts are both perfect and complete. Jas. 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."

2. God is the giver of every good gift and every perfect gift - Jas. 1:17
  - a. Christ - He tasted death for us - that is God's great gift of Christ
  - b. Bible - This is God's revelation to man telling us about his great gift
  - c. Salvation - Forgiveness of all our sins is the gift that God has offered us through Christ and told us about in the words of the Bible.
3. Gratitude for God's good gifts should lead one to become obedient to the Lord - Rm. 2:4  
"...the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance."
4. Man can do what God has told us to do in order to be saved.
  - a. God is willing to save us.
  - b. Man should be willing and ready to obey.

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Source - God's Good Gifts by Thomas H. Holland 1969

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