

Gods Indescribable Gift - 2 Corinthians 9:15

Intro: This is the time of year when we think about choosing just the right Christmas gifts to give to the special people in our lives. But let me ask you, **"Have you ever received an indescribable gift?"** Have you ever received a gift that was beyond description, even one that staggered your imagination?

I thought about that for a while this week. What kind of gift would it have to be, to be called "indescribable?" Would it be a gift that you open and look at and say, "This is just beautiful, and it's something that I've wanted all my life - **what is it?**

Over the course of the next 24 hours, most of us will receive a number of different gifts. Some will be practical, others will be fun: **Few of these gifts though will be called indescribable.**

How do you describe the indescribable? Year after year we preach on the happenings of Christmas but have we come close to conveying what Christmas really means?

Musicians have composed some of their greatest music our ears will ever hear on this theme. Poets and painters and sculptors have taken up the tools of their trade to pay tribute to Jesus: - **God's indescribable Gift**

In 2 Corinthians 9:15, Paul shifts his attention from human gifts to God's gift of sending Jesus to earth for us. And he cannot find words to describe that. He simply says, **"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift."** Why does Paul call Jesus "indescribable?"

The context of the verse is that Paul was encouraging the church in Corinth to give a financial gift to support the struggling Christians in Jerusalem. Paul appealed to their generosity on the basis of **"God's indescribable gift"**. **He says that after what**

God had done for them, generosity toward each other should come easily.

What is it about this gift that makes it indescribable?

IT INVOLVES ONE GREATER THAN WE CAN GRASP

One of the reasons the gift is indescribable is because it involves One who is greater than we can grasp. Lying in that manger bed, in a humble stable in the tiny town of Bethlehem on that first Christmas night, was God's indescribable gift; - Jesus.

How do you describe Jesus? What words would you choose? How do you describe a baby born of a virgin? How do you describe God in flesh, walking upon our earth and reaching out to the hurting masses of humanity?

How do you describe that which is spirit when all we have ever known is that which is either physical or material? **How do you describe God who has all knowledge when all we have is limited knowledge?**

How do you describe God who is all powerful? How do you describe the eternal? How do you describe the indescribable? Paul says that we can't. Words cannot adequately describe Him. Jesus is indescribable because He defies our categories because there is no one else like Him.

You say He is good but He is better than good. You say He is better but He is better than better. You say He is best but He is better than best.

Even when we bring together our greatest minds, our most extensive vocabularies, our most eminent theologians, they have never been able to adequately describe Jesus, or unfold to us the entire meaning of the gift of the Son of God to men!

Earthly treasures do not define Him. He is more precious than silver. He is more costly than gold. He is more dazzling than diamonds. He is more stunning than rubies. He is more beautiful than pearls.

The apostle Paul looked at Jesus and said, **"I can't describe Him.**

I have seen all kinds of gifts and I have to conclude that there is One that excels them all, One that is like no other in quality and character and splendour, and that is God's indescribable gift of His Son, Jesus Christ.

All I can do is fall on my knees and thank God for His indescribable gift.

And I guess that's what we need to do at Christmas time, too, to fall on our knees and thank God for His indescribable gift. A gift not wrapped with beautiful paper and frilly bows, but wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger

The gospel record shows that Jesus claimed to be God, and everyone knew He was claiming to be God, because they picked up stones to kill him for blasphemy. **He claimed the authority to forgive sin; He administered healing to those who were deaf, blind, crippled, and deeply disturbed.** He showed resolute calm as He was railroaded and tortured in death.

His followers claimed to have seen Him, talked with Him, eaten with Him, and they professed that they had been instructed by Him for a period of 40 days following His **"resurrection"** three days after his death. He told us that if we believed in Him we would **"live even though we die"**.

GOD'S GIFT IS INDESCRIBABLE BECAUSE OF THE BLESSING IT BRINGS

We are blessed in many ways in life, with our children and our friends. We know a measure of abundance that makes us the envy of the rest of the world. These are great blessings but they are nothing compared to what God has given us in Christ.

Jesus makes it possible:

- To be forgiven for the sin of our past and to start over clean before God.
- For us to become a part of God's family
- For us to have eternal life; to live even though we die.
- For us to have God's Holy Spirit living right inside of us uniting us with Christ forever

I know this list may not sound as cool as the newest Video gaming system or a big screen television or whatever else you have on your Christmas list. **But let me venture to say that long after those flashy toys are obsolete**, what Jesus gives will still be fresh and precious. **In fact, almost everything the world gives us will decrease in value.**

What God gives us through Christ continues to increase in value. At the end of your life it won't matter whether or not you get to play one more Play Station 3 or Xbox 360 game. **It will matter intensely whether or not you have an assurance of eternal life.**

I think Paul called Jesus indescribable because of His purpose in coming to earth. The angels announced to the shepherds, *"Unto you is born this day in the City of David, a Saviour who is Christ the Lord."* **We celebrate the fact that Jesus came into our world to save us.**

Folks, we may struggle to describe that which is indescribable? But God said, "I know. I'll send a baby. Babies don't frighten people. Babies are so tender and soft and helpless. Maybe they will

hold the baby in their arms. Maybe they will experience my love if I send a baby."

So in the fullness of time God sent His One and only Son, as a baby, a baby who would be called Jesus. **Graham Kendrick's song, "the Servant King" says it well.** *From heaven you came helpless babe, entered our world, your glory veiled. Not to be served, but to serve, and give your life that we might live.*

Come see his hands and his feet, the scars that speak of sacrifice, Hands that flung stars into space, to cruel nails surrendered.
Indescribable!

But the good news is that you don't have to be able to describe Him to accept Him. You just have to be warmed and changed by Him. **So tonight, make your journey to the manger with the shepherds. Take Him into your heart and accept God's indescribable gift for you.**

On this, another Christmas Eve Candlelight service, we have sang about the Lord coming, we have sang about adoring Him and acknowledged that He is the Saviour of the world. **It is an incredible story. It is an indescribable gift.**

Christmas is anchored to history, but it is also about today. Christmas is about Jesus born in a manger, **but also about Jesus being born in you.**

Of all the gifts you could receive this Christmas, this is the best. It is an incredible gift. It is a life-changing gift. It is an awesome gift. It is an indescribable gift. It is the greatest gift of all!

Don't leave it under the tree.