

Thank you God for Jesus – 2 Corinthians 9:15

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone! My heart is filled with Thanksgiving for all God has given to us, including the precious youth and children of the church who helped us celebrate Thanksgiving today. Now I want to read to you one simple verse from 2 Corinthians 9:15:

“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”

The Apostle is thinking about Jesus and it causes him to break out in thanksgiving. He could have said simply, “Thank you God for Jesus” but as Paul thought about who Jesus is and the miracle of his coming to be our Saviour, Paul is lost for words.

Paul has been challenging the people of Corinth to be generous. He challenges them to trust the fact that the more you give away to help those in need, the more God will bless you and look after you. Paul has a special project in mind – the people of Jerusalem are suffering a drought and the church needs help. Paul wants the Corinthians to send a love offering. This is the context in which we find this simple verse.

Then Paul exclaims, “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift,” reminding us that before we gave one penny away to help others, God gave us a gift so wonderful that there are no words to describe it. What was God’s gift to us? Jesus.

You see, Paul knows who Jesus is – not just a man who lived a long time ago, but God who came to earth to rescue us from sin, death and Satan. Paul knows how big God is and how amazing it is that He would choose to come to rescue us.

Think about this...

Have you ever looked up on a clear night and gazed up at the stars? They tell me we can see about 3000 stars with the naked eye. Four-hundred years ago Galileo built a telescope which allowed him to observe 30,000 stars. Today we have discovered that the Milky Way galaxy, of which our sun is a part, contains 200 million stars. Now if you could count three stars per second and counted for 100 years you would have only counted 5% of the stars in this galaxy!

Peering through modern telescopes it is estimated there are 10^{25} visible stars (that’s a one followed by 25 zeros). That is a huge number. The fastest computers today can do 10,000 million calculations per second, yet if it tried to count all the stars, it would take that computer 30 million years! No computer would last that long.

Is it any wonder God inspired Jeremiah to write,

‘... the host of heaven cannot be numbered, ...’ ([Jeremiah 33:22](#))

We cannot count the stars in the heavens, but listen to this: God knows each star by name, according to Psalm 147:4!

Besides the great number of stars in just our galaxy, think of how big it is. It is said to be 100,000 light years across. A light year is a measurement of distance when the numbers are too big for us to keep track of. A light year is the distance a ray of light traveling at 300,000 km/second will travel in a year, approximately 9.46 million million kilometers. Now multiply that by 100,000 light years and you get the size of our galaxy.¹

Why do I even mention this? Because I want you to understand how great our God is. God is bigger than these galaxies, for he created them. He spoke one word and all these stars came into being, and by his plan and design the light from those stars, that should have taken millions of years to reach the earth, arrived all on that day of creation, ready to spotlight God's greatest creation: people.

We cannot image how large God must be, for he is beyond time and space. He fills this great, vast universe, which only makes sense because he is God. But a God this big creates a little planet that is perfectly balanced in space so it is not too hot, nor too cold, but just right to sustain life. Most importantly, it is just right to sustain the life of a certain creature called humanity.

No wonder the Psalmist writes:

- ³ When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
⁴ what is man that you are mindful of him,
the son of man that you care for him?
⁵ You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.² (Psalm 8:3-5)**

“Why should such a great big God care about us?”

Not only does he care about the human race, but he cares about each person. He knows each of us by name, knows all our likes and dislikes, our favourite colour and favourite foods. He even knows how many hairs are on your head. He takes a personal interest in each one of us – yes, including you! You are one of his favourites! Yes, You!

Last week we said we should give thanks because God has lifted us out of the slimy pit and put us on a solid rock, and that rock was Jesus. We are so thankful for the rescue mission of God.

¹ Information about our galaxy and the stars comes from the Creation Ministries website, accessed Oct 10,2020. <https://creation.com/counting-the-stars>

² [*The Holy Bible: New International Version*](#). (1984). (Ps 8:3–5). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

This week we give thanks for the rescuer – Jesus. He is God’s indescribable gift. He is God come to rescue us!

Jesus is the same God who created the universe. The Apostle John made that clear in the first verses of his Gospel:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...” (John 1:1-3, 14)

Can you hear what John is saying? This great God who fills the universe, who created everything there is, came to us and revealed Himself to us in Jesus.

But this was more than a “show and tell” event where Jesus came and simply said, “Look at me and you will know what God is like.” He did say that, but that was not the end of the journey for Jesus. There was a greater reason for the Word to become flesh and dwell among us...

In Philippians 2 we find an ancient creed of the church describing the story of Jesus:

⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

**⁶ Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
⁷ but made himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to death—
even death on a cross!
⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. ³**

It is clear that Jesus came to die on a cross. This is how he would rescue us. But as God he could not do that, God does not die, but as a man, becoming one of us, he was able to die. He provided for our salvation through his death and resurrection. In 1 Peter 3:18 we read:

³ [*The Holy Bible: New International Version*](#). (1984). (Php 2:5–11). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

¹⁸ For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. ⁴

We were stuck in the slimy pit of sin but God in mercy sent Jesus to come and rescue us. Jesus is not only the rock upon which our rescued selves can stand, but he is the arm of God reaching down to rescue us!

I am with the Apostle Paul – I cannot put into words how wonderful and amazing it is that God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son... Jesus is that indescribable gift – that gift too wonderful for words, as some translations have rendered this verse. What words do we have to describe the God who fills the universe yet comes to us as a baby to rescue us from our sin? Jesus came to lift us from the pit of sin and put us on the solid rock.

This Thanksgiving weekend we thank God for sending Jesus to rescue us. We may not have words to describe love that great, mercy so wide, grace so abundant but we know we need this. We need a Saviour. We need a God who will rescue us from our foolish choices and give us a fresh start in life. We need a God who will cleanse our conscience as we repent and turn to Him. We need a God who will walk with us, talk with us and call us His own.

This is what God gave us in Jesus, his gift too wonderful for words.

One question in conclusion: have you received the gift God sent you? Have you by faith repented of your sin, asked God's forgiveness and allowed Jesus to save you from sin and spiritual death? Have you been born again? If you have, you have received God's indescribable gift. If not, why not?

Every day becomes Thanksgiving when we receive God's indescribable gift and thank God for the gift of Jesus!

⁴ [*The Holy Bible: New International Version*](#). (1984). (1 Pe 3:18). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.