

GREAT GIFTS FROM GOD

INTRODUCTION

- I. The great gifts that God makes available to mankind are far superior to the gifts that men offer to one another. Jas. 1:17
 - A. God's *temporal* gifts are dispensed universally. Matt. 5:45
 - B. God's *spiritual* gifts (or blessings) are for those in Jesus Christ. Eph. 1:3
- II. Now let's consider some of the great gifts of God that **directly** benefit Christians—those in Christ.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, God has give us the BIBLE.

- A. The Bible is the "mind" of God, expressed in **words**, that is available to **all**, but has a special meaning to Christians.
 1. The Old Testament was inspired of God to people living before the cross of Jesus. 2 Sam. 23:2; 2 Pet. 1:20-21
 2. The New Testament is also inspired of the Holy Spirit, for those living after the cross of Jesus. 1 Cor. 2:9-13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17
- B. The majestic qualities of God's word are described by the psalmist David. Ps. 12;6; 19:7-10; 119:72, 103, 105, 127, 130

II. 2nd, God has given us the SAVIOR.

- A. God gave Jesus His Son to atone for sin. John 3:16; Rom. 5:8-10
 1. This Savior came to save ALL who are lost. Luke 19:10
 2. However, He actually **is** the Savior of those who do His will. 1 Tim. 4:10
- B. There are four things that **prove** that Jesus came from above and can save.
 1. 1st, the **sinless life** of Jesus while on earth proves His divinity. John 8:46; Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:22
 2. 2nd, the **words of Jesus** also prove His divinity. Matt. 7:28-29; John 7:40, 45, 46
 3. 3rd, the **works of Jesus** also prove His divinity. John 3:1-2
 4. 4th, the **resurrection of Jesus** after His death on the cross also proves His divinity. Rom. 1:4

III. 3rd, God has given us the CHURCH.

- A. By the word "church" we refer to the divine institution of a collection of those who have been saved by the blood of Jesus, when they obey the gospel. Acts 2:36-38, 47
 1. The one church of Jesus Christ was built by the Lord Himself, that began in the first century. Matt. 16:18
 2. That church does not consist of any or all of the so-called "churches" that sprang up through the centuries, that are tainted with just enough scripture to deceive the world to think that any can be saved by just going to or belonging to some good church, though not even named in the Bible.
 3. Christ is the Savior of **His** body, or the church. Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:23; 1 Cor. 12:13
- B. The church was planned of God from eternity—to benefit man and bring glory to Himself. Eph. 3:10-11, 21
 1. The church has Christ as its **only** head. Eph. 1:22-23
 2. The church has the word of God as its **only** creed or standard of authority. John 12:48

B. By being **in** the church of Christ, there are other gifts from God that we enjoy.

1. 1st, we enjoy “salvation” from the guilt of sin. Acts 2:47
2. 2nd, we enjoy “fellowship” with God, Christ and all the redeemed. 1 John 1:3-10
3. 3rd, we enjoy the “hope” of heaven by being in the church. Rom. 6:23; Tit. 1:2

CONCLUSION

I. If we live without the Bible, Christ, and His church, the **soul** is lost for time and eternity.

II. Illus. A NIGHT OF TERROR.

In the winter of 1888, there was a vessel off the coast of New Jersey whose crew spent a “night of terror.” It seems there was a wreckage near the shore that struck this incoming vessel, and the crew thought they were in danger of going down and losing their lives. They cried for help, and spent the entire night cold and wet. In the morning they learned that land and safety were within their reach all the time, for the accident occurred about a hundred yards from shore, and they just didn’t realize it.

Just so, God has given us the Bible, the Savior, and the church—to bring us into His fellowship. They are within your reach right now. Won’t you come confessing your faith in Jesus as God’s Son, repenting of all sins, and then be buried with Him in baptism, and you will then be added to His church with the hope of eternal life. Don’t leave this world without accepting the gifts of God, for your eternal time of terror will be with you for eternity.

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