

THE GREAT GIFTS OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

- I. The great gifts that God makes available to mankind are far superior to gifts that human beings offer to each other. Jas., 1:17
 - A. God's temporal gifts are dispensed universally. Matt. 5:45
 - B. God's spiritual gifts (or blessings) are for those through Christ. Eph. 1:3
- II. Now let's consider some of the great gifts of God that directly benefit the Christian.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, God has given us THE BIBLE.

- A. The Bible is the greatest book ever written, and has long been the world's best seller.
 1. The Bible is authored by God which contains a record of the mind of God and is available to to all mankind, but has special meaning to Christians.
 - a. The Old Testament was given by inspiration OF God to people who lived before the cross of Jesus. 2 Sam. 23:2; 2 Pet. 1:10-21
 - b. The New Testament was likewise inspired of the Holy Spirit, for those who live after the cross of Jesus. 1 Cor. 2:9-13; 2 Tim. 3:16a
 2. 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
- B. The Bible contains the offer of life for those who want it. John 6:63; 14:6

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

- A. God gave Jesus His Son to atone for sin and give life. John 3;16; Rom. 5:8-10
 1. This SAVIOR came to save ALL the lost of the world. Luke 19:10; 1 Tim. 2:4-5; 4:10
 - a. The gift of salvation is conditional, as man must meet certain conditions.
 - b. When God "gave" the city of Jericho to the Jews, they had to march around the city every day for 6 days, and 7 times on the 7th day, and the priests were to blow their trumpets, and and the people would give a great shout and the city would be theirs. Josh. 6:1-5, 20
 2. Just so, there are conditions sinful man must meet to enjoy salvation. Mark 16:16
- B. There are 4 things that **prove** Jesus came from above and is qualified to save.
 1. 1st, His sinless life proves His **divinity**. John 8:46; Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet.2:22
 2. 2nd, the **words** Jesus spoke prove His divinity. Matt. 7:28-29; John 6:63; 7:44-46
 3. 3rd, the **works** of Jesus prove His divinity. John 3:1-2
 4. 4th, the **resurrection** of Jesus proves his divinity. Rom. 1:4

III. 3Rd, God has given us THE CHURCH.

- A. This does not mean that Christ came from God **to establish a system of religion that man could CALL a "church", and set up his own system of belief, and allow man to give it a name that suits him, and believe what he pleases.**
 1. There were ALREADY systems of religion in the world—most of them false.
 2. God's offer of the church began when Jesus built HIS church, which began in Acts 2. Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:1, 47
 - a. Christ is the HEAD of His church, hence is call ed "the church of Christ."
Rom.16:16
 - b. The doctrine of the church is the New Testament ONLY. John 12:48; 2 John 9.
- B. Obeying the Lord's terms of salvation puts us IN the church, with the hope of everlasting life. Acts 2:38, 47

IV. Finally, God has given us ETERNAL LIFE.

A. While IN the church, we have the “hope” of eternal life. Tit. 1:2

B. When this life is over, we will have the “reality” of eternal life. Rom. 6:23

CONCLUSION

I. If we live without the Bible, Christ and His church, we have no hope of heaven.

II. A NIGHT OF TERROR. In the winter of 1888, there was a vessel off the cost of New Jersey whose crew spent a “night of terror.” It seems there was a wreckage near the shore that struck an oncoming 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 was within their reach all the time—just a few yards away.

Just so, salvation is just a short distance away. Won't you take advantage of it, right now?

Don Tarbet