

Gifts associated with the Gospel of Christ

The gift of the Saviour

John 3:16-17: “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. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”

In this eminent verse spoken by the Lord, we have the gift of the **Saviour** to all men associated with the inexpressible **love** of God – for God *so* loved. Its unspeakable nature is in that it was the gift of His *only* begotten Son – and, that it He was given for those who had *no* love for Him. And for what purpose? That no one should perish. This glorious verse reveals the blessed provision of God in His love for man who, because of his sin, is under God’s judgment. “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 Jn 4:10).

“God loved the world of sinners lost,
And ruined by the fall;
Salvation full, at highest cost,
He offers free to all.”ⁱ

The gift of salvation

Ephesians 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.”

In this instance, it is the Apostle Paul declaring God’s gift of **salvation** associated with God’s **grace**. The three essential truths of this verse are as follows – and, let us note the corroboration given from the epistle to the Romans – that epic exposition of the Gospel of Christ:

- “It is by *grace* that we are saved through *faith*.” How glorious! All that God requires for our salvation is our faith and that very thing is an act of divine grace. “It is of faith, that it might be by grace” (Rom 4:16). Grace is the necessary accompaniment to faith. One cannot abide apart from the other.
- “Salvation is not from us – it is the *gift* of God.” Man cannot give what he has no right nor power to bestow – salvation. He is a sin-tainted and fallen being who needs salvation. “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly” (Rom 5:6).
- “It *cannot* be gained by our works.” This truth supports the two before it. If not by works then salvation must be come by way of grace and, man cannot then boast in obtaining it. “Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith” (Rom 3:27).

“E’en now by faith I claim Him mine,
The risen Son of God;
Redemption by His death I find,
And cleansing through the blood.”ⁱⁱ

The gift of a Sacrifice and a Substitute

Romans 4:25: “Who [Christ] was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.”

Here Christ presented first as being delivered “for us” – on our behalf as the substitute. The truth of substitution and sacrifice is given in that He was raised (i.e., having *died*) – and, then He (arose) for “*our* justification.” We have God’s gift of a **Sacrifice** and a **Substitute** associated with our sin. Why was He delivered? For our sins and, because we could ever offer a sacrifice that would satisfy the holiness of God. Someone had to pay for sin and that Person could only be God’s Son – the sinless and spotless Sacrifice. His precious blood was shed that we may be redeemed unto salvation. With sin being paid for you and I can then by faith accept God’s offer of salvation. We read too that Christ was raised from among the dead. This was to show that God was *satisfied* with the sacrifice of His Son. And so we can stand justified before God if we accept that Christ died for us as our substitute and that He was raised again because He was the perfect sacrifice for sin. “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Rom 10:9-10).¹

“In the soul-cleansing blood of the Saviour,
I've been washed in the crimson flood;
Tho' the world may say there is hope some other way,
I'm depending on the blood.”ⁱⁱⁱ

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom 6:23).

Who or what you depending on for eternity?

Give thanks unto God “for his unspeakable gift” (2 Cor 9:15).

ⁱ From the hymn “God Loved the World,” by Martha Stockton/ W Fischer c. 1871

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ⁱⁱⁱ Johnson Oatman, Jr., 1856-1922

¹ It is not simply a belief in the resurrection of Christ; but belief in that “God raised Him.” In this we acknowledge the all-sufficient sacrifice of Christ in vindicating the holiness of a thrice holy God and, that “Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth” (Rom 10:4). This is one of a number of truths implicit in the simple confession of faith in Christ as our Saviour.