

## The free gift of God

Happy early Thanksgiving everybody.

I'm going to give you something to be very thankful for this morning.

As Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 9 –

*2 Cor 9:15*

*15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!*

One way to understand thanksgiving is by the makeup of the word.

I submit that thanksgiving is in large measure “thanks for the giving”.  
/ It's saying thank you to God for the gifts He has given us.\

*John 3:16*

*"For God so loved the world, that **He gave His only begotten Son**, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

/Christ is the greatest gift that the human race ever has or ever will receive.\

A word that is closely connected with the word "gift" is the word "grace".

/We are lost without the grace of God. \We are dead in sin without the grace of God. We are condemned and guilty and under wrath without the grace of God.

Without His greatest gift to the human race.

Without Christ.

*Rom 3:23-25*

*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as **a gift by His grace** through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; 25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith.*

Rom 5:15-17

*But **the free gift** is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did **the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ**, abound to the many. 16 **The gift** is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand **the free gift** arose from many transgressions resulting in justification. 17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who **receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.***

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But I am jumping ahead in the story.

Our work together in the Scriptures for the last several weeks has been to discover what the Bible says about what it means to be human.

/What is man?\

We have visited the creation of man in the garden. We have observed the fall of man.

And we have marveled at the unique humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And that is where we pick things up this morning. A brief recap and then we will move ahead.

/We have traced the life of Jesus from his humble yet miraculous birth on earth to His miraculous and glorious ascension and session in heaven.\

He was born of a virgin, without sin, God in the flesh.

He was obedient to the will of His Father, even to the death of the cross.  
He died for our sins, and was buried.

But He did not remain in the tomb. God the Father raised Him from the dead.

He received a new human body, an amazing body, a resurrection body that is designed for heaven. The body that Jesus received at His birth was earthly and mortal. His resurrection body is heavenly and immortal.

Forty (40) days after Jesus was raised from the dead, He ascended into heaven in a human body.

When He reached heaven, He was highly exalted.

/Then God the Father seated Jesus Christ our Lord at His right hand, the hand of power and authority.\

/The Lord Jesus Christ is now the Son of God in a glorified human body. \

His humanity and His deity are inseparable. He is one person. WE can't forget that as we consider the wonders of His humanity.

/He is glorified and exalted in both His deity and His humanity now.\

*John 17:5*

*5 "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*

*/He radiates the glory He had as the Son of God before the world began.\*

*/And now He has the added glory of victory, in His humanity, over sin and death.\*

*Phil 2:8-11*

*8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

*9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

*KJV*

His glory and exaltation now in heaven is both a return to the glory He had as the Son of God before the world began AND the glorification of His humanity.

*1 Tim 6:14-16*

*that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which He will bring about at the proper time — He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.*

/The resurrected, ascended, and seated Christ is a completely new kind of Man. \

In His unique humanity, He is superior to man as originally created.

In His glorified humanity, He is also superior to His humanity before He was raised from the dead.

What does it mean to be human? What is man?

We have now seen two men who are polar opposites.

/There is fallen man: Adam.

There is glorified Man: Christ.\

From the lowest of low to the highest of high.

The entire story of the human race is wrapped up in the legacies of these two men, Adam and Jesus. It's wrapped up in what they did, the effects of what they did, and who they became.

One man began in the garden of Eden, and ended up in the grave. The other Man began in a stable in Bethlehem and ended up in heavenly glory.

/Each man committed one act that changed the course of the human race: one for the worse, and the other for the far, far better.\



/The whole story of the human race can be summed up in terms of what has happened because of Adam, and what has happened and will happen because of Christ.\

You see, each and every member of the human race, at any point in time, is related to one - but only one – of these two men.

/There are two kinds of humanity , and only two. You are either in the category of humanity associated with Adam, or you are in the category of humanity associated with Christ.\

*Col 1:13-14*

*13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

/God's plan of salvation involves a transfer from one category of humanity (associated with Adam) to the other (associated with Christ). \

Why?

*1 Cor 15:21-22*

*21 For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead.*

*22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.*

God is not willing that any should perish.

And this is God's indescribable gift. We are right back to the ultimate thanksgiving, giving thanks for the free gift from God.

*Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

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So what is man now?

/ There are two kinds of humanity. There is one kind of man in Adam (the old kind), and a completely different kind of man in Christ (the new kind). \

Which kind you are is determined by which man you are related to.  
/Are you in Adam, or are you in Christ?\

One kind of humanity is condemned. The other kind of humanity is redeemed. One kind of humanity is dead in in their transgressions. The other kind of humanity is alive together with Christ.

*Eph 2:4-5*

*4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),*

Believers in Christ were at one time in Adam, but as a result of their justification by faith in the blood of Christ, they are now in Christ, and will remain in Christ forever.

*Eph 1:13-14*

*In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14*

*who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.*

This sets us up nicely for the subject we will examine next Sunday.

A governing principle operates here. God in His genius set down this principle. It applies in equal measure to both Adam and Christ. That's the genius of it. By this law, we are saved by grace through simple faith in the act of another on our behalf.

*Rom 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!  
How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!*

/This principle is called Federal headship. It is the basis for a corresponding law: the law of imputations.\

Next week we will learn what these are.

Grasp these truths, believer and you will be at peace, secure in the knowledge that you have eternal life and can never lose it.