

The Gift

God's word on eternal life



A study of God's grace and gift of salvation

Outline

Title: **The Gift**

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THE GIFT

Today God provides the opportunity to receive the gift of eternal life. The soul of man may now be saved from the consequences of sin. God is, was¹, and ever shall be. God made man in his spiritual image² and desires to have fellowship with Him.^{3,75} When sin entered in⁴ this fellowship was broken.⁵ God's plan of redemption⁶ provides the way⁷ to reestablish this relationship. This is the perfect gift that is offered to all.

The process of restoration begins with the acknowledgement that mankind cannot live without committing sin. Each who has the knowledge of good and evil,⁸ will inevitably make the choice to do evil.⁹ This sinful condition results in spiritual death.¹⁰

The road to eternal life begins with belief and faith in the one who provides it; Jesus Christ, God's gift to us.¹¹ God is offering redemption from the penalty of sin through the sacrifice of his son.¹² This is God's grace^{13,14} personified!

God sets before us a blessing and a curse,¹⁵ life and death. Choose you this day whom you will serve.¹⁶ To serve God, one is under the justifying, atoning blood of Christ. Any other choice requires that one pay for the penalty of sin, which is damnation and eternal death.

It is impossible for man to save himself or to live good enough to merit salvation. We simply need a Savior.¹⁷ For conversion to take place, one realizes their lost condition, repents, believes and confesses. With words confession is made unto salvation.^{18,19}

With a word God spoke creation into existence, with a word of confession we allow God's spirit to live within us. It is also through words that a person can commit eternal sin.^{20,21,22}

Anyone who calls another person a “fool” will be in danger of the fire of hell.²³ To speak evil of someone, whether true or not, may damage that person to the degree that they will never be the same. This is known as “character assassination.”

When God’s spirit lives within, hatred, selfishness and bitterness are replaced with love, self-giving and forgiveness.²⁴ One is truly “born-again”²⁵ and has become a “new creation”²⁶ as evidenced by the “fruit.”

Spiritual salvation may be described as deliverance from eternal death. This salvation was promised,^{27,28} is offered now,^{29,30} and is to come.³¹ This salvation is made possible only by the finished work of Christ in the past,³² present,³³ and future.³⁴ Nothing can be added to the work of Christ. It is completed, finished and sufficient. Our position³⁵ is in Christ alone.^{36,37,38}

God seals the born-again believer to confirm their validity³⁹ as a reference to their lives as God’s possession.^{40,41} We are sealed with the promise of redemption.⁴² The born-again become the holy habitation of God.^{43,44} The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is a token of God’s promise to reunite our spirits with his.⁴⁵ The Holy Spirit of God that lives within the believer brings about a conversion which creates a new mind,⁴⁶ a new heart,⁴⁷ and a new person.²⁶

The converted bear good fruit of righteousness for they have been grafted in to the true vine.⁴⁸ True salvation is not just conviction and reformation, but repentance and conversion. The works done and the fruit born is evidence of who we are. These works do not secure the relationship with God,^{48,49} but are the results of the new life in Christ. If these grafted in branches are fruitless, they will be cut off.⁵⁰ The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God.⁶⁴

Believers are secure on God's terms, not man's.^{52,53,54,55} God gives us free will: the freedom to choose.⁵⁶ The power of choice to retain salvation does not make will power more sovereign than God's own power of grace.

"Behold therefore the goodness and sovereignty of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness; if thou continue in his goodness. Otherwise thou also shall be cut off. And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief; shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again.⁵⁷

"Whoever denies me before men, I will deny him before my father in heaven.⁵⁹

A decision will be made. Choose God and live. Not to decide is to decide. Moses stood before the people and asked: "Who is on the Lord's side?"⁵⁸ Those who did not stand on the Lord's side were slain. Jesus stands and offers the gift of salvation. To reject or forfeit this gift brings eternal death and hell. To receive this gift, one has victory over sin through perseverance,⁶⁰ "receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls."⁶¹

Lucifer, and the angels which followed him, were cast out of heaven because of their rebellion against God.^{62,63,65} The free will to choose is lost only in the pit of hell⁶⁶ and to those who fall away in apostasy. God forgives and restores the repentant. The reprobate will not bring themselves to repentance and are rejected by God after testing.⁶⁷ To fall away from God's truth⁶⁸ is to return to the law and seek righteousness and justification by the law and not by grace.^{69,76} The child of God can choose to harden their heart and thus fail to enter into the promised land because of unbelief.^{64,70} The willful rejection of grace is a sin unto death.⁷¹

The gift of eternal life may be accepted or rejected. Once received it may be forfeited. That branch will be cut off but through repentance God is able to graft them in again.⁵⁷ Judas and Peter both denied Jesus and betrayed him. Judas did not repent and went to hell.⁷²

Peter did repent and was forgiven and restored.⁷³ Peter speaks of those who have “forsaken the right way”,⁷⁴ whose “end is worse with them than the beginning.”

Life is a gift, to be lived now. That is why it is called the “present.” Through belief and repentance, the sin and guilt of the past is forgiven. The hope of the future is secure in the eternal life He offers. The present may now be lived in the assurance that one is secure in God’s love and care through Jesus Christ, God’s gift to us.

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