<u>CHRISTMAS Message - Jesus - The Unspeakable Gift</u> <u>2 Cor. 9:15</u>

"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." (2 Cor. 9:15)

Almost everyone enjoys receiving gifts; and not just at Christmas. The wealthy, as well as the poor, are intrigued by receiving gifts from someone they love or respect!

Children love receiving gifts from their parents and grandparents. They also like giving gifts like little notes, cards and other artistic creations they have made!

Giving is important because of the effort, love and time it takes to make or purchase an appropriate gift. And in wrapping, mailing or delivering it!

There is usually a lot of love wrapped up with gift giving! It's easy for children to express their love, but harder for some adults. That's where the gift giving helps them!

Some of us enjoy giving even more than receiving. We rejoice in our ability to create little blessings in people's lives, by the things we are able to do for them!

What is the greatest Gift this Christmas?

Jesus Christ is the "desire of all nations", that Haggai prophesied should come! (Hag. 2:7)

The Bible says, "For God so loved the world that HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN - ONE AND ONLY - SON, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life". (John 3:16)

Our gracious Heavenly Father has given us so much. After giving His Son to die for our sins, **HE GAVE US THE HOLY SPIRIT to empower the Church**. And the "gifts of the Spirit" are still available for us today!

OH, HALLELUJAH! PRAISE THE LORD!

In closing, allow me to put everything in perspective. St. Paul's statement thanking God "for His unspeakable gift" was the conclusion of a powerful discourse regarding, "GIVING ECONOMIC HELP" to the saints of God!

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall also reap bountifully.

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." (2 Cor. 9:6-8)

Let us remember the poor, sick, sinful, orphaned and disadvantaged, with our prayers and financial gifts. Help support this ministry and others, which proclaim "the gospel of Jesus Christ"!

There is also an added bonus. The 'Law of Reciprocity' kicks in when we give!

Jesus said: "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give unto your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again". (Luke 6:38)

Have a joyous Christmas and remember "it is more blessed to give than to receive". (Acts 20:35)

Finally, may we all take time to give thanks to the Lord for His great mercy and blessing in our lives, as well as to others who have touched our lives with their love!

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