

THANKSGIVING EVE COMMUNION SERVICE
THANKING GOD FOR HIS UNSPEAKABLE GIFT...

II Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

This is the Eve of thanksgiving, one of my favorite holidays. For years I thought it amazing that it is very hard to corrupt Thanksgiving. How can you corrupt being thankful? The world will find a way if it can. What they're doing is starting the shopping on Thursday rather than Friday. Years ago on thanksgiving, the highways were like a ghost town. One of the few holidays geared to families. Everyone stayed home.

It is our custom to celebrate the Lord's table this Eve of Thanksgiving.

There are a lot of things the Lord could have told His church to do in remembrance of Him. But he choose the ordinance we are going to celebrate tonight. What this ordinance signifies and illustrates must be so very important to the Lord or else he would not have commanded us to perpetuate it.

Communion commemorates and illustrates that thing we should be most thankful for this Thanksgiving 2018.

II Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

This gift was none other than His sacrifice on the cross for our sins.

Paul calls it his unspeakable gift.

It was around this time of the year, 1974, that I received this unspeakable gift. It was the greatest thanksgiving and Christmas time I ever experienced.

Now I have been saved for 44 years. I was 21 years of age when I received Christ's gift of salvation. It can become easy to take this gift for granted the longer we are saved.

But think about what He did for us.

Why is it such a great gift?

Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Colossians 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

We have been delivered from the kingdom of Satan and the power of darkness. We have been translated into the Kingdom of God.

There are a lot of people in Satan's kingdom of darkness and for them there is not much to be thankful for on thanksgiving.

Think about what it took to deliver us from the power of darkness, from satan's grasp.

I. It took Jesus, the eternal son of God, coming to earth and taking on flesh and living a perfect life in this world of sin degradation and temptation.

He who was so high stooped to be slow low, to be our Savior.

We could not even imagine the contrast.

My wife every now and then wants to go and eat Mexican food. I say to her, why? Who is dying to get into Mexico? It is not some place I would desire to go and live.

I visited the Philippines a few years back. People asked me how did you like the Philippines? I said, it was hot humid, sticky, but I loved the people.

THERE IS ONLY ONE REASON JESUS CAME TO EARTH. THAT IS FOR THE PEOPLE WHO HE LOVED AND SOUGHT TO SAVE.

II. JESUS OFFERED UP HIS PERFECT LIFE AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR OUR SIN.

Jesus died for us.

He alone of all men did not deserve the penalty of sin.

He did not sin.
He could not sin.

Yet Satan and his people crucified him and offered him up on the cross..

The wages of sin is death.
Jesus never sinned.
So He had to take our sin upon Himself or even on the cross He would not die.

All the pictures in the Bible illustrate what He did.

THE SACRIFICES, from the garden to the New Testament, all the lambs that were offered were a picture of Him.

III. JESUS DIED AND WAS BURIED AND AROSE AGAIN.

Death could not hold Him.

It was not in His death that he defeated Satan.
It was in His resurrection.

Through His resurrection He defeated death.

The penalty of sin is death. At the cross He took our penalty.
Through His resurrection He proved His innocence and we now become partakers of His victory when we receive Him.

IV. The Ordinance of Communion Shows That We Are Partakers of This Victory.

We are one in Him.

His body was broken for our sin and we are part of His body.

His blood was shed for our sin and we are partakers of His blood.

When we are partakers of the elements we are proclaiming our unity with Him and each other.

ONE CHURCH. ONE BODY. ONE IN CHRIST.

V. NOW WE CAN THANK GOD FOR HIS UNSPEAKABLE GIFT.

II Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

If all we have was this gift of Salvation we have enough to celebrate this great holiday.

Tonight we gather together to thank Jesus for His unspeakable gift.

I thank God I am no longer caught up in the darkness of this world.
The activities of darkness. The drinking, drugs, the filth, and rebellion.

He opened my heart. my mind, to the truth of Scripture, the glorious gospel of Christ.

Therefore this ordinance now has meaning for me and I pray for you also.

II Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

We shall not celebrate this ordinance that He told us to do in remembrance of Him.

COMMUNION