

A Gift from the Good Shepherd  
John 10:11, 14-18

INTRO: We hear much about God's gift to man, His Son Jesus Christ, and rightfully so for the Bible has much to say about this marvelous gift. As II Corinthians 9:15 says: "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." The Greek word for "unspeakable" means "beyond description, indescribable."

1. The gift of God is:
    - a. The sending of His Son so that we can have life, so that we can really live (I Jn 5:9). "Live" in I John 5:9 means "to enjoy life, to be victorious spiritually, to be efficient in the kingdom work." John 10:10 says: "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."
    - b. God sent His Son to be a sacrifice for sin (I Jn 5:10). "Propitiation" is "the means of appeasing." In this case, it is God the Father sending His Son to die our death, to taste the dregs of our sin, to suffer the torment of our hell so that God would be appeased by the perfect sacrifice of Jesus the Lamb.
    - c. God sent Jesus to be our deliverer, our Savior, and preserver (I Jn 5:14). Matthew 1:21 says: "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS; for he shall save his people from their sins."
    - d. God through His Son has given to us the Holy Spirit (I Jn 5:13).
    - e. God gave the gift of His Son that believers could live eternally (Jn 3:16).
    - f. Many other gifts can be cited such as grace, mercy, love, etc.
  2. Gifts given by Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd:
    - a. God's Son gave His body to be broken for us (I Cor 11:24).
    - b. God's Son gave His blood for His people (I Cor 11:25; Lk 22:30).
    - c. Christ gives forgiveness to those who would have no forgiveness without Him (Eph 1:7; 4:32).
- I. VSS 11, 14-15, THE GOOD SHEPHERD GIVES HIS LIFE FOR HIS SHEEP
- A. Vs 11, Oh, what a gift! Jesus the Good Shepherd gives His life

for the sheep.

1. Jesus says: "I am the Good Shepherd. . . ."
    - a. "Good" signifies "choice, excellent." Because He is virgin born, He is not tainted with the sinful blood of Adam's race. He is the best, far superior to all others: "O worship the King, all glorious above. And gratefully sing His wonderful love; Our shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise....."
    - b. I Peter 2:22 says of Christ: "Who did not sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." Of all other men, the Bible says: "There is none righteous, no not one."
  2. "The Good Shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. . . ."
    - a. "Giveth" is the Greek word *tithemi* meaning "to lay down." Jesus laid down His life on behalf of His sheep. This is a gift of love. John 15:13 reads: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Jesus laid down his life for the sheep. Jesus died for His sheep because of His love for them (Gal 2:20). As you read Galatians 2:20, you will see that salvation is personal.
    - b. Jesus gave His life so that we could pass from spiritual death unto spiritual life (Jn 5:24).
- B. Vs 14, Knowing that the Shepherd knows each of His sheep is a great and precious gift.
1. Jesus knows me by name.
    - a. He knows where I live. He knows when I am sleeping and when I cannot sleep. He knows when I have sinned, and He knows when I have been doing the kingdom work. He knows when I hurt, when I cry.
    - b. He knows the night I was saved for He was there.
    - c. He knows my weaknesses and peculiarities, and yet, He loves me.
  2. Not only does He know me, I know Him by way of the gift of salvation. "I . . . know my sheep and am known of mine."
    - a. Jesus is not just a historical figure; he is a personal Savior.
    - b. Jesus is real and His gift of salvation is real for I know Him in my heart. You see Christianity is a person, not a creed.

- C. Vs 15, The kind of knowledge that Jesus has of His flock is the same kind of knowledge that exists between God the Father and God the Son.
1. Jesus says: "I lay down my life for the sheep."
    - a. In the Greek, the word "for" means "instead of."
    - b. It means to rescue the life of another at the expense of one's own life.
  2. In Romans 5:6-8, the same Greek word *huper* is used.
    - a. Vs 6, ". . . Christ died for the ungodly."
    - b. Vs 7, "yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die."
    - c. Vs 8, "while we were yet sinners Christ died for the ungodly."

II. VSS 17-18, CHRIST'S LIFE WAS NOT TAKEN FROM HIM; IT WAS GIVEN AS PAYMENT FOR THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE (Rm 6:23)

- A. Vs 17, In the halls of eternity, God provided salvation for the sheep.
1. Before ever a man roamed the earth, God had provided a way of redemption through shed blood.
  2. Jesus, in love for and obedience to God, laid down His life and arose the third day (Acts 2:23-24).
- B. Vs 18, The death of Christ was voluntary; He was not powerless.
1. "No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down. . . ." He gave His life in payment of the gift we would receive, eternal life.
    - a. Hebrews 12:2 says: "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." The joy set before Him are the sheep that are given the gift of eternal life.
    - b. He endured the lies, the nails, the thorns, and the hell that He suffered on the cross because of the joy of seeing sinners saved and satisfied.
  2. "I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again."
    - a. "I have power...."– resurrection power.
    - b. Because He live, I have the gift of eternal life, and I can face tomorrow. Because Christ arose, I too shall rise (Rm 8:11).

CONCLUSION: Can you say with Paul, “Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift”? Do you have the gift of eternal life? (Romans 6:23).