

01 - "THE GIFTS WE HAVE BUT DON'T OPEN"

Philippi Baptist Church

Sunday a.m. OCTOBER 27, 2019

Scripture Reference: EPHESIANS 1:1-3

Intro

- 59 DAYS until Christmas
- Im living in my 40th year, Im still a kid when it comes to christmas?
- I love the gifts!! I cant wait to open presents
- Tourture – family get together eat firstlike come on already lets get to these gifts
- You know some times I got slick, daddy painted cars, would tape up gifts in same paper that taped up cars with. We used to get that paper from Uniondaily times ends of their production
- You guys know what happens when you hold newspaper up to the light???
- Maybe one time I held a present up to the light when yall were not looking..
- Maybe I knew I was getting a Nintendo before I opened it..
- Opened that present up , and OHH did I enjoy it, years of joy and satisfaction .

Imagine if I , for some reason had to leave that present under the tree, unopened, for the whole next year.

- I would not get to use it,
- No satisfaction from it

- Live life void of all the good that would come if I would just open it up, take it out of the package and enjoy
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- The Church at Ephesus Were living like that.
- The Saints and Faithful unto to the Lord had forgotten what they possessed in him. Like a gift left under a tree.
- THE RICHES WE HAVE access to in Christ are like that.
- We receive Christ but are unaware of the abundance of blessing we have in him. We miss what is there for the taking because we don't tap into the Christ that lives in us

Lets read our text and unwrap our gift together this morning

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord

Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who

has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the

heavenly *places* in Christ

God Chose Paul to be an apostle. – Set up the appointment – on the road to Damascus – **Chapter 9 in Acts.**

Why?

“By the Will of God”

I. WILL OF THE GIFT GIVER

Eph. 1:1 *“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,”*

- **Apostle** – Apostolos- a delegate: specially an ambassador of Christ messenger who is sent , one who has been specifically commissioned by Christ. Selected by him for a specific purpose

Apostles purpose and duty is lined out in scripture

- **Lined out in scripture duties where :**
- **Be the Foundation layers of the Church- Saul hated and persecuted the church**
- **Preach the gospel- 1 Cor.1:17- Saul Killed the people that did**
- **Teach and Pray- Acts 6:4**
- **Work miracles 2: Cor. 12:12**
- **build up others leaders of the Church – Acts 14:23**
- **Write the word of God – Eph 1:1**
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- **Will** – Thelma – to desire, Gods best offer to people which can be accepted or rejected, a choice, pleasure (What is Wanted)

Shark tank

- People come in with an idea and pitch it to a panel of wealthy investors
- If a investor likes their Product and believes in it, they can make an investment offer in exchange for equity stock in their company.
- The Sharks have the money and connections to make great things happen for the business owners, if they can strike a deal.
- Even still the business owners can accept the deal proposed buy the sharks no matter how good it may be
- The investors or sharks sometimes believe in the product so much that the deal is ludicrous. So good, how can any one with any sense at all walk away from it?
- They still do>>>>

God had given you a deal that is unbelievably merciful, and rich for you

What we know.

- God Chose Paul for this Purpose
- Paul was Saul – the Persecutor of Christians
- But how would God who is God achieve His will?
- Lets look at Paul’s situation and see how it happens
- It’s the same way it happens for us

Turn to..

Acts 9

The Damascus Road:

9 Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

³As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. ⁴Then he fell to the

ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”

⁵And he said, “Who are You, Lord?”

Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”

⁶So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?”

Then the Lord *said* to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

⁷And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. ⁸Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought *him* into Damascus. ⁹And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Ananias Baptizes Saul

¹⁰Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, “Ananias.”

And he said, “Here I am, Lord.”

¹¹So the Lord *said* to him, “Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for *one* called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying.¹²And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting *his* hand on him, so that he might receive his sight.”

¹³ Then Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much ¹³harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.”

¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children¹⁵ of Israel. ¹⁶ For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.”

¹⁷ And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord ¹⁷Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ Immediately there fell from his eyes *something* like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.

¹⁹ So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.

1. **appointment set up-**

³ As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. ⁴ Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”

- God chose a specific time to reveal himself to Saul

2- **Wrong living realized**

⁵ And he said, “Who are You, Lord?”

Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”

3) **Belief births respect, and response**

⁶ So he, **trembling** and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to **do**?”

4) **Obedience brings Holy Spirit**

“Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”...

¹⁷ And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord ¹⁷Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and **be filled with the Holy Spirit.**”

Set an appointment – met on road to kill Christians
Revealed Him self- Spoke to him, that he was living against God
Paul – personal choice
Believed- that God was speaking
Responded – that he would obey
Received the Holy Spirit- to live righteously
Professed publically- to unbelieving world
Was disciplined – by disciples

Wrote most of the new testament

5) Salvation brings desire to publically profess faith – Baptism

¹⁸ Immediately there fell from his eyes *something* like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was **baptized. (had not eaten for 3 days chose to get baptized before eating- shows he put the spiritual duty before fleshly desires**

6) Hunger for Discipleship

¹⁹ So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus

God had a purpose for him. -Will for him to be an apostle

Shark tank

- People come in with an idea and pitch it to a panel of wealthy investors
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- They still do>>>>

God had given you a deal that is unbelievably merciful, and rich for you

His Will is for you to be saved.

He has paid the price

Set up the appointment

Revealed himself

Will you respond in repentance and receive His salvation? His holy Spirit Guide and comforter ?

End Sunday morning

Sunday evening

II. WHO GETS THE GIFTS

Eph. 1:1 “*To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus”*

Saints- Hagios- figuratively innocent (as seen through Christ) modest, Perfect believers that God has made holy

Faithful- those who have trusted in Christ as the Lord and Savior

All Christians are Saints – because they have been made innocent of their sin by the blood of Christ

All Saints are Faithful- they wont walk away from Christ because they have trusted Christ as saivor and Lord

III. WHO GIVES THE GIFTS

Eph. 1:3 “**Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us”**

Blessed- yoo-log-ay-tos- speak well of, celebrate by praising

What do you do when you find out someone has given you something?

Hug them, thank them, celebrate them because high five it, they got you something – excitement, joy, - shower them with praise

Just Who did it? This is cool after study
Jumbled up –

Whats happening in this sentence is that

Both God the Father and Jesus in the Greek are connected with a form of AND that denotes equality.

So ,

God is both God the Father and Jesus and

God is the giver of the blessings

Something to get excited about = wait you cant gert excited yet you don't know what we got>>

Pastor you think im crazy?

We got to see what we got.....

IV. WHAT ARE THE GIFTS

Eph. 3:3 “*every spiritual blessing*”

Every- Pas- all

Spiriual – Pneuma – means of the holy Sprit in this context :
where we get our word Pneumatic Pneumatic is the technology
of using compressed air to make power like in a in a hammer
drill or Jack Happer

In this context - the blessings that are spoke of come from the
Holy sprit within us- blessings that come from the power that
lives in us as the Holy spirit gives

Blessing , praise or Gift – in this context gift

Say what ?

We have every spritul blessing?

Yes :

We pray for funny prayers sometimes
Because we haven’t opened some of our gifts
We have in Christ

Lord can you:

Help me to Love more Romans 5:5

- ⁵Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

- We have all the Love we can handle – the Love of God is in us as Christians!!!

Help me have Peace John 14:26

- ²⁶ But the ²⁶Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
- IF you possess the Holy Spirit – you have the Peace from God
- The comforter resides in you

Help me be Happy **John 15:9**

⁹“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.

¹¹“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full.

- The Joy of the Lord can remain in you – If we keep his commandment

Help me be strong **Phil 4:13**

¹³I can do all things through ⁱⁿChrist who strengthens me.

- We possess Christ who is the source of limitless strength

We have every spiritual blessing – we are complete in him!!

Col. 2: 10 ⁱⁿand you are complete in Him, who is the head of all ⁱⁿprincipality and power.

Why then if we already have all those gifts, does it feel like we don't ????

We are looking in the wrong place

V. WHERE ARE THE GIFTS

Eph. 3:3 *“In the heavenly places in Christ”*

- Heavenly – ep- oo- ran-ee-oos
- Means the Sphere of Spiritual activities - where the Lord is operating in,
- As Christians we have a citizenship in heaven. This world is not our home.
- We don't belong here
- We are like tourists who are just passing through
- We possess the spiritual gifts that come from God, Peace, joy, Strength, when we are always heavenly minded.
Living like we are passing through
- With our focus on Christ we have peace, joy, strength

- When we focus on the World sin clouds the gifts and it seem as if we have lost them
-

The truth is if we lost love, bitterness is overshadowing the Holy Spirit

our peace- we took our eyes off Christ

Lost Our Joy- our mind is on the world instead of heaven

Lost our strength – a sin is in front of the savior – purity is power

Don't live life with unopened gifts your father in heaven would have you open.