

Sovereign Grace Church

“Our Gift” outline

December 23, 2018

Philippians 2: 1-8

We have used the concept of “giving gifts” in this Advent series of sermons. We have considered God's gift of Creation, Jesse's, as representative of the faithful Old Covenant brethren, gift of faith manifested in Patience as they awaited the fulfillment of the Promise of Redemption, and Jesus' gift of Himself as He voluntarily took upon Himself the nature of a man at a particular time and place and suffered rejection and death in bringing the Old Covenant shadows of Redemption to Life!

In Christ the promised Redemption has been brought to completion. Restitution was made on behalf of sinful humanity and the curse of the Fall was gloriously defeated in His death and resurrection. God's Kingdom has invaded history. The only thing left is response on the part of the fallen. This involves a final gift. The gift of a repentant self to the glories of a restored relationship with our Loving Creator and with the rest of Creation. This gift, although surely ours, is also even more fundamentally God's.....for apart from His power at work in our hearts it could and would never be given...but it is our hearts in which this power is realized....and it is our hearts that must realize the gift!

1. Our fallen and natural state: Conflict!
Gen. 3:6; Rom. 6:23

2. Redemption: Jesus' Mind v. 5
Rom. 8:9; I Cor. 12:13; Col. 1: 9-10

3. Redemption: Jesus' Example v. 6-8
Jn 6: 38
 - The Emptying Col. 2: 9

 - Humility: concealing Divinity
Lk 1:35; Isa 11: 2-3; Matt 12: 28; Ac 9: 38; Heb 9: 14

- **Humility: suffering & death**
I Pet. 4: 13; Lk 9: 23

4. **Redemption: Our Gift**
Rom. 12: 1-2; Jn 5: 30; I Cor. 9: 19-22

Closing Thought: Phil. 2: 3

Questions for Discussion and Reflection

1. **How does the biblical concept of sin relate to the concept of relational separation? When Eve chose to follow her desire, what happened with her relationship with God? What was the desire that competed with her desire for God? Which won? What then must be done in the work of redemption?**
2. **What can we learn from Jesus' example of giving Himself? How does this relate to our giving of ourselves in relationships with our brethren? Our neighbors? Our enemies? How do we “participate” in the sufferings of Jesus? What should be our attitude in the midst of such sufferings?**
3. **What has been your experiences in celebrating Christmas? Has the event itself matched the expectations of the event? How would our personal believing of Philippians 2: 3 make a difference in our preparations and celebrations? Are there things that you profess to believe but don't? How do you know that your profession is genuine? What does it mean to believe?**
4. **I have noticed that a common question over the past few weeks is, “*Are you ready for Christmas?*” to which most folks respond negatively. As a matter of fact I get the impression that many folks want Christmas to be over! How might the story of Mary and Martha (Lk 10: 38-42) help folks as they “prepare” for Christmas as well as in the event itself?**