

*But Mary
treasured up
all these things
and pondered them
in her heart.*

“The Indescribable Gift”

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9:15

As we open our gifts this year, it is important that we be more like Mary, who “treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart” (Luke 2:19). Before we open the gifts that will last only moments when compared to eternity, we want to ponder THE GIFT and its many parts. As we open this box of boxes, the gift of gifts,

We celebrate that in the Gift of Jesus . . .

God Shows Us Himself

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. (Hebrews 1:1-3a)

God Really Understands Us

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)

God Goes First to Save Us

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 6:8)

God Fully Experiences Death to Save Us

Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. (Hebrews 9:27-28)

God Can Remain Just While Showing Mercy to Us

God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice . . . so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:25a, 26b)

God Gives Us the Hope of a Physical Resurrection

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:55-57)

God Promises to be with Us Always

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20)

God Gives Each One of Us Himself — Personally

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever — the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. (John 14:16-17)

God Will Take Us to Be with Him

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14:1-3)

God Will Wipe Away Every Tear

For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. (Revelation 7:17)

God Will Transform Our Bodies So We Can Experience Everlasting Life

"Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" (Revelation 21:3b-5a)

God Gives Us the Example of How to be Humble

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. (Philippians 2:5-7)

God Gives Us the Example of How to Face Suffering

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. (1 Peter 2:21)

God Gives Us the Example of How to Have Faith (Reverent Submission)

During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. (Hebrews 5:7)

God Gives Us PEACE

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:14)

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27)

Therefore, we can consider these troubles . . .

Not worth comparing to the glory to be revealed

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. (Romans 8:18)

Light and momentary

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. (2 Corinthians 4:16-17)

Thank you God the Father, for sending Your Son. Thank you Jesus, for taking on human flesh and nature forever. Thank you Holy Spirit, for opening our minds to the treasure of THE GIFT. We ponder in worship, and in peace.