

“God’s Indescribable Gift”

New Hope Community Church

November 26th, 2017

Galatians 4:4-7 / John 1:14-16

A. God’s Great Gift Involved the Impossible (Ga 4:4-7)

1. The union of two **natures** in Jesus

- The Son sent forth was fully **divine** (4a)
- The Son sent forth was fully **human** (4b)

► **KEY:** Let us never, never minimize the miracle of the incarnation -- God the Son taking flesh and becoming the God-man!

2. The redemption of those who were **cursed** under the Law (5a)

- God’s standard for relationship is His own **perfection**
- To **break** God’s Law put people under a curse (Ga 3:10,11a)
- Animal sacrifices did not remove sin & **restore** relationship
- A perfect sin bearer from **Adam’s** race was required (Heb 2)
- So the one who is redeemed by Christ is transformed from a slave of sin into a child and **heir** (5b-7)

B. God’s Great Gift Is the Source of All Grace (Jn 1:14-16)

1. The One Who became flesh revealed the **glory** of God

- From beginning of time He was with God and **was** God (1:1)
- His human flesh **veiled** the full glory of an infinite God (Jn17:5)
- He voluntarily **limited** the use of His divine attributes (Phil 1:7)
‘He emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, being made in the likeness of men’ (Phil 2:7)

2. What Jesus does display is a **fulness** of grace and truth (14)

- A gift from God that lacked truth would leave us in **darkness**
- A gift from God that lacked grace would leave us **helpless**

3. The fulness of His grace is like a **growing** river in our lives (16)

- We **see** it at Bethlehem ▪ We **receive** it at the cross
- We **experience** its life giving effect through all of life
Literally - ‘grace in place of grace’
‘The grace replaced by grace means that every grace received is a capacity for higher blessedness.’ (Pulpit Commentary)

Meditation Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

- God’s gift in Jesus is just the beginning of endless grace gifts to us. Are we experiencing through Him grace upon grace?

Why should not the ponds (of grace) be linked together by a flashing stream?

God is always pouring Himself out; why do we not always take Him in?

Alexander MacLaren

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Discussion Questions

- 1) What amazes you most about the miracle of God the Son taking the form of human flesh, so that Jesus was fully God and fully man?
- 2) Read Galatians 3:10,11. Why do you think it is written that all who do not abide by all things written in the Law are cursed?
- 3) Read Galatians 4:4-7. One result of redemption is that we are set free from slavery and adopted as children. What impact can this have on our daily lives?
- 4) Read John 1:14. Why is it so important to us that Jesus was full of grace and truth?
- 5) Read John 1:16. “Grace upon grace” can literally mean “grace in place of grace”. What do you think is the significance of this interesting phrase?
- 6) Describe some of the expressions of the river of God’s grace that has continually flowed into your life.