



*The  
Greatest  
Gift  
of  
All*

*"...it is the gift of God: not of works,  
lest any man should boast."*

*Ephesians 2: 8 & 9*

# The Greatest Gift of All

John was 6 years old. He was the only child in his family who lived in a small remote village. His father died when he was 2 years old. His mother had to eke out a living by washing the neighbours' clothes to make ends meet. They were too poor to even know if they would have food on the table the next day. Their humble abode was made of plywood and cardboard. There was no proper window except for an opening in the wall that allowed some air to flow through. But this same window also allowed rain water to come in, which would wet John's only chair and rickety study table which also doubled up as the dining table during meal times. The floor was clean but was made of compact earth. Tucked at the corner of this one-room house was an old mattress that had seen better days, shared by John and his mother. There was no electricity but a gas lamp lit the entire house. During the winter they would burn newspapers to keep warm. Whatever prospects John had of a better life was only a dream.

One day, a stranger came to John's humble little house. John opened the door to find a man dressed in a suit standing before him. The man asked if he was John, who barely

whispered, "Yes". The stranger said that he had a gift for John from his father's long lost brother who had just died. The gift was enough to supply the needs of John and his mother for the rest of their lives! John had never received any gift in his entire life. Every meagre possession he had was earned by hard labour. That night, John and his mother could not sleep. They were too excited to sleep. They held each other's hands together in silence. John verbalized what was also in his mother's heart that their daily struggle to survive was over. Their future was set for life! A gift is something you cannot earn. If it is earned, then it ceases to be a gift. Everyone loves to receive gifts. Some gifts are more precious and are of greater use than others. A gift always brings joy to the receiver. But gifts that are given by man do not last. Even the gift that John and his mother received would not last. It is only good for this life. When John and his mother die, they would not be able to take their "gift" with them. If only there is a gift that is good for this life and also the life after this life!

Yes, there is. This gift can only come from God. It is free but not cheap. In fact, this gift is priceless. It is indeed the greatest gift anyone can ever receive! This gift is God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. The Almighty

God gave us His only begotten Son to die for our sins even though all of us do not deserve it! Jesus Christ willingly came down from heaven into this world to die for the sins of the world. Jesus was called "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world." (John 1:29) Sin brings death and death brings Hell! All of us are sinful. But Jesus Christ was perfect and was without sin when He died for us. He was not only fully man but He was also fully God. His death was of infinite value. He could die for all our sins and he did. Every sin can be forgiven by Christ's death on the cross of Calvary. No matter how many sins we have committed or how heinous our sins are, Christ's death is able to wash our sins away.

It was because of your sins that Christ came to die. The death of Christ on the cross was most painful and cruel. Christ was mocked and abused by sinful men who condemned him to die even though He had committed no sin. They scourged and punched Him, and mocked that He was a king, and put on His head a crown of thorns and on His body a purple robe. Then they crucified Him. His death was a bloody death. Christ's blood was shed for the sins of man. God's Word says that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin (Hebrews 9:22).

How do we know that God has accepted what Christ did for sinners on the cross at Calvary and that it is all sufficient to wash away every sin? On the third day after Christ's death, God raised Him from the dead. To raise Christ from the dead means that Christ has defeated death. When death is defeated, it means that Christ's blood that was shed for our sins is powerful enough to wash all sinners of every sin. As the Bible says,

*"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."*

(Isaiah 1:18)

We are all born sinners. There is no one righteous, no, not one. All our good works are as filthy rags in the sight of the holy God. We are all dirt poor like John and his mother but in the spiritual sense. Our hearts are bankrupt because of sin and nothing on this earth can fill this void inside our hearts. Money, fame and fortune are useless because they provide only temporal relief. Very soon when reality hits, the vacuum in our hearts is even greater than before. When we die in our sins, we will enter into Hell, the place of eternal torment. Only Christ can fill this void in our hearts by forgiving us of our sins. Death will lose its sting.

The penalty of death which is Hell will then be removed forever.

Just as the stranger knocked on the door of John's house to give him the gift, Christ is now knocking on your heart's door offering you the gift of salvation which is in Christ Jesus. All you need to do is to confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that you are a sinner and that Jesus Christ died for your sins and you will be saved to the uttermost. This is God's promise! Pray this prayer from your heart...

*"Heavenly Father, I confess that I am a sinner. If I die in my sins I know that I will go to Hell. Jesus Christ is the only One who can save me from my sins. Forgive me of all my sins, O God, and wash me by Christ's cleansing blood. I acknowledge with all my heart that Jesus Christ died on the cross of Calvary for my sins. I receive Him into my heart as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus Name I pray with all my heart!"*



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*Worship services: Mandarin 8.00am - 9.30am*

*English 10.30am - 12.15pm*

*SGH 6.00pm - 7.30pm*