



THE GLORY OF GOD THROUGH HIS GIFT TO MANKIND

Jas. 1:17, Rom. 6:23, Eph. 2:8



Jas. 1:17 **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above**, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Rom. 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but **the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

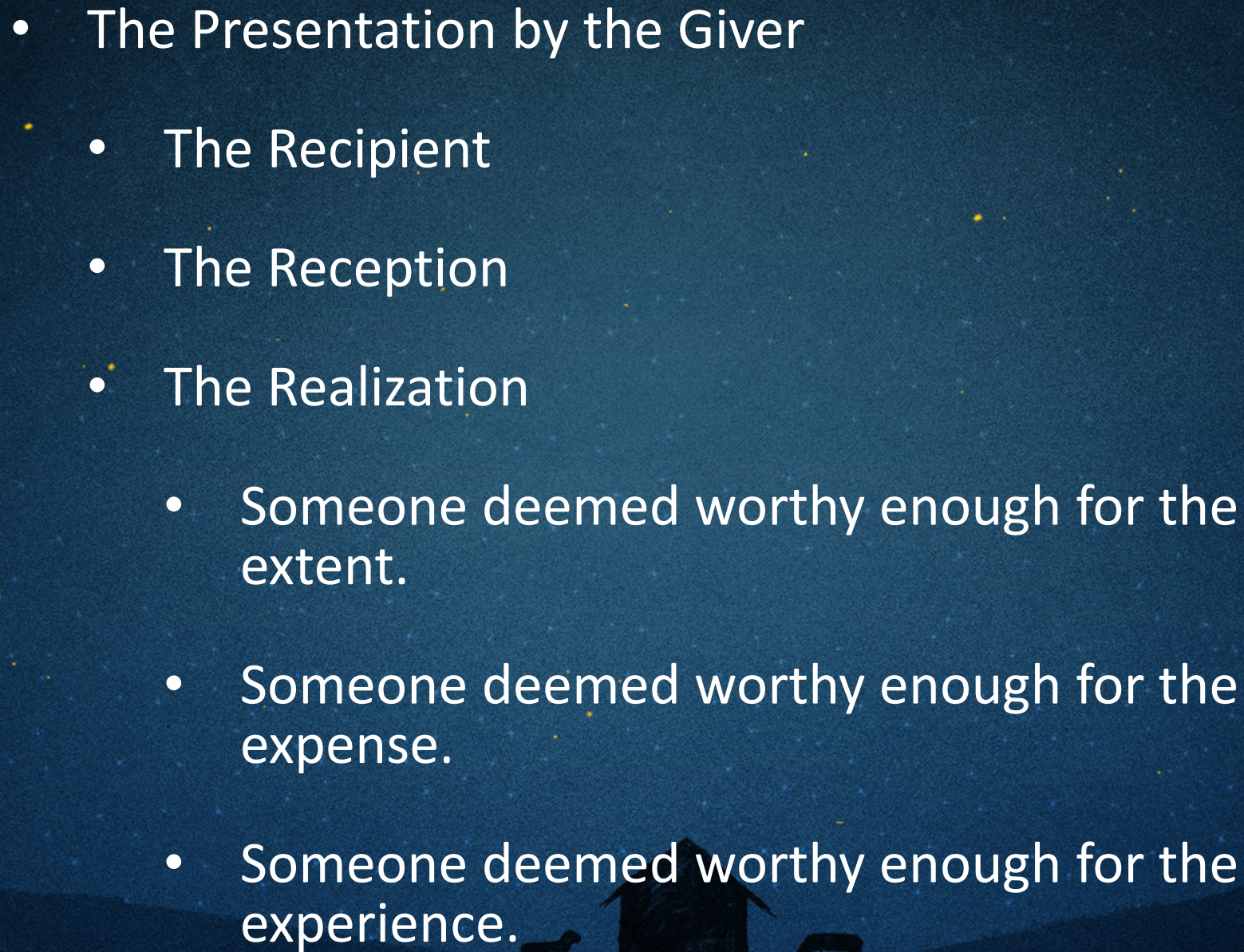
Eph. 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* **the gift of God:**



Christmas season is easy to focus upon giving and receiving gifts. Generally speaking, there are simple principles for such a practice:

- The Purchase of the Gift
 - The Worth
 - The Warranty
 - The Wrapping



- The Presentation by the Giver
 - The Recipient
 - The Reception
 - The Realization
 - Someone deemed worthy enough for the extent.
 - Someone deemed worthy enough for the expense.
 - Someone deemed worthy enough for the experience.
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For a believer, these principles are magnified when we consider what Christmas means:

Jn. 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

1 Jn. 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that **the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.**

Titus 3:4 But after that **the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,**



- This gift was given out of God's heart of love.
- This priceless offering was gift-wrapped in swaddling clothes.
- The red-ribbon of His blood adorned the "unspeakable gift."
- The warranty on this gift is for eternity!
- This morning we will focus upon three areas of God's Gift to us:

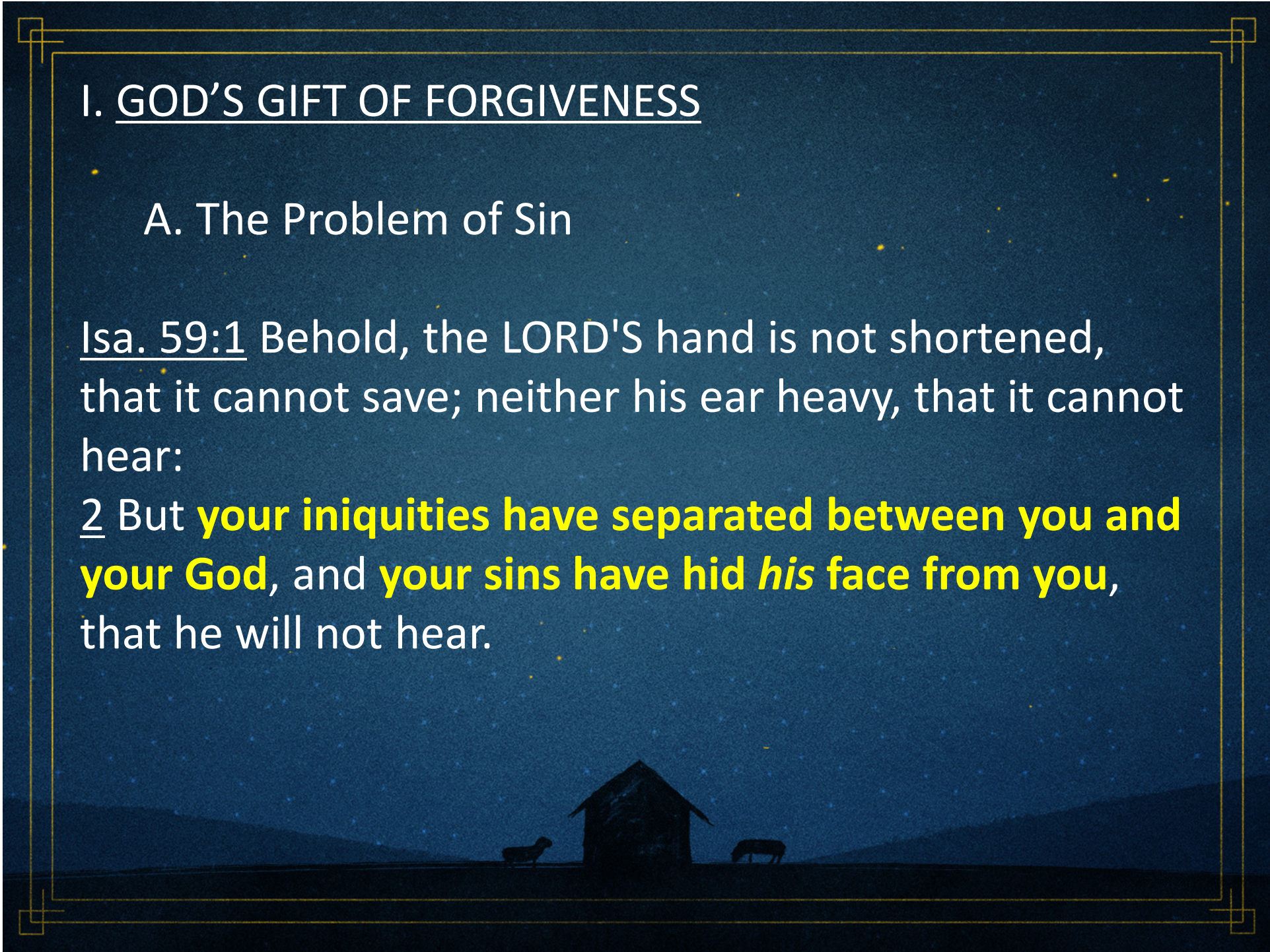


I. GOD'S GIFT OF FORGIVENESS

A. The Problem of Sin

Isa. 59:1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

2 But **your iniquities have separated between you and your God**, and **your sins have hid his face from you**, that he will not hear.



Rom. 3:10 As it is written, **There is none righteous, no, not one: ...**

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Rom. 5:12 Wherefore, as **by one man sin entered into the world**, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that **all have sinned**:

Luke 19:10 For **the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.**




B. The Provision of the Savior

Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a **Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.**

Jn. 4:42 And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard *him* ourselves, and know that this is indeed **the Christ, the Saviour of the world.**

Acts 5:31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand *to be* **a Prince and a Saviour**, for to give repentance to Israel, and **forgiveness of sins.**



- All the world is lost in sin and in need of a forgiving Savior.

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive **forgiveness of sins**, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Psa. 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath **he removed our transgressions from us**.

- Forgiveness of sin is a wondrous work of God's love, mercy, and grace.

Rom 4:7 *Saying*, Blessed *are* they **whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered**.

Prov. 10:12 Hatred stirreth up strifes: but **love covereth all sins**.

1 Pet. 4:8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for **charity shall cover the multitude of sins**.

- God's forgiveness of our sins is an example of a believer's forgiveness for another.

Eph. 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**

Eph. 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, **the forgiveness of sins**, according to the riches of his grace;

Col. 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* **the forgiveness of sins:**



- Believers constantly need forgiveness in order to stay in fellowship with Christ.

1 Jn. 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to **forgive us our sins**, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- Forgiveness and cleansing go together to provide us fellowship with God Who is most Holy!

1 Pet. 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, **the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God**, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

- Christ paid a debt He did not owe because we had a debt that we could not pay.



II. GOD'S GIFT OF FELLOWSHIP

A. The Reconciliation of Sinners

Isa. 59:1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

2 But **your iniquities have separated between you and your God**, and **your sins have hid his face from you**, that he will not hear.

Jn. 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and **he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.**



- Sin separated us from God Who is Holy, therefore we need reconciliation to Him.

Rom. 5:8 But **God commendeth his love toward us**, in that, while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us.**

10 For if, when we were enemies, **we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son**, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

- God's plan of reconciliation for mankind is only through the Lord Jesus Christ.



2 Cor. 5:18 And all things *are* of **God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ**, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 To wit, that **God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself**, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, **be ye reconciled to God**.



B. The Ramification of Salvation

Eph. 2:16 And that **he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross**, having slain the enmity thereby:

Col. 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, **by him to reconcile all things unto himself**; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven.

21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled



- One of the greatest benefits of salvation is to enjoy fellowship with the Creator.

1 Cor. 1:9 **God is faithful**, by whom ye were **called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord**.

1 Jn. 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, **that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. ...**

6 If we say that **we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie**, and do not the truth:

7 But **if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.**

- Our fellowship with Christ is intended to be forever!

III. GOD'S GIFT IS FOREVER

The warranty on this gift is for eternity!

A. The Greatest Gift has the Greatest Promise –
everlasting life!

Jn. 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.** ...

36 **He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life:** and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Jn. 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.**



B. The Greatest Gift has the Greatest Present –
eternal fellowship with Christ!

Jn. 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that **where I am, there ye may be also.**

- Only a prodigal son's brother could miss such a value of fellowship.

Luke 15:31 And he said unto him, Son, **thou art ever with me**, and all that I have is thine.



- In the garden before Calvary, Christ was mindful of our fellowship with Him.

Jn. 17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, **be with me where I am**; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

- The first Advent paved the way for the second Advent – our fellowship with Christ, forever!

1 Thess. 4:17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and **so shall we ever be with the Lord.**



Conclusion

Mt. 11:28 **Come unto me**, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 **Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me**; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and **ye shall find rest unto your souls**.

30 For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

- The Invitation – “Come unto me...”
- The Instructions – “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me...”
- The Insurance – “...and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”
- The Ingenuity – “For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.”

