

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide SB 12.19.2021

THE KING'S GIFT: COLOSSIANS 1:19-23

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

The Christmas shopping season is in full swing. The basic theme remains the same: Shoppers will feverishly try to find the perfect meaningful gifts for everyone on their list. But, of all the gifts to be given, there is only One absolutely perfect and meaningful Gift. The gift of Jesus, the greatest gift, who comes from our loving Father in Heaven. All good and perfect things come from the perfect and good God of light (James 1:17). The Father gave us the perfect gift in Jesus because He so loves us and desires that none should perish (John 3:16). The extent of this love is shown by the fact He gave His only begotten Son. The Father loves us and provided a way—the only Way—for us to spend eternity with Him. He gave His only Son to take the punishment for our sins. He paid the price in full, and we are free from condemnation when we accept that free gift of love. "But God demonstrated His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift (2 Cor. 9:15)! Let's get into our study...

1. Have you ever tried to purchase a perfect and meaningful gift for a loved one? Describe the attributes of a "perfect" and "meaningful" gift.
2. How does the gift of Jesus demonstrate the deep and passionate love our Father in Heaven has for us?
3. What stood out to you during this week's study?

Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ COLOSSIANS 1:19-20 and John 1:1,14

In God's love for humanity, He gave the gift of Jesus who became a man and dwelt among us. Yet, in Jesus, was all the fullness (*pleroma*) of God (Col. 1:19). In John 1:1, if we substitute John's metaphor of the Word for the person he was talking about, we have the following: "In the beginning was Jesus, and Jesus was with God, and Jesus was God... And Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us." Jesus was no mere man, teacher, prophet, or even angel. He was and is fully and completely God. It is beyond human understanding how Jesus could be with God, even as He was (is) God, at the same time He was fully man. But when Jesus came to earth, Philippians 2:6-8 explains that Christ did not empty Himself of His divine nature, but in humility, he emptied Himself of His divine right to glorify Himself as King and Judge. He became a servant, being born in the likeness of man, obedient to His Father, even the point of death on the cross.

1. In your own words, describe what "all the fullness" means.
2. How is it possible Jesus could be fully God and fully man (two distinct yet inseparable natures)? (Exodus 3:14)
3. In humility, what did Jesus empty Himself of? What form did He take on? (Phil 2:6-8)
4. Who is the only Mediator that can reconcile God and humanity? (1 Tim 2:5)
5. For what purpose was Isaac prepared for sacrifice on Mt Moriah? (Gen. 22:2) For what purpose was Jesus sacrificed on Mt. Moriah? (John 1:29)

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ COLOSSIANS 1:21-23

Jesus was given by the Father, that through Him, all reconciliation would occur. "Reconcile" literally means bringing back into proper relationship. God removed the barrier between Himself and sinful man by the death of His Son on the cross, so sinners may experience a living relationship with God. "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? (Rom. 8:31-33)

6. We were once alienated from God (Col. 1:21). To be alienated means the state before reconciliation with God. Describe in your own words the human state before reconciliation from God.
7. What does it mean to be reconciled with God?
8. The aim of reconciliation with God is holiness. What is holiness? (Leviticus 20:26)
9. Why is simply being a good person not justification to enter through heavens narrow gates? (John 14:6)
10. Read Jude 1:24. How are we able to be presented faultless before the presence of His glory? (Col. 1:22)

Applying God's Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

All good and perfect things come from the perfect and good God of light (James 1:17). The birth of Jesus brought down that good and perfect Gift to live among us and to serve a purpose of leading all of us to live in the presence of His beautiful light forever. This Gift not only reigned above us and lived among us, but this Gift is also now the power that lives within us!

1. Are you reconciled with God? It is not what you know, it is Who you know. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Jesus.
2. Do you struggle with the sinful actions of your past? Your sinful past is no longer your identity. Your identity is now in Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. We are presented faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.
3. We need to continually allow Christ to accomplish His work in our lives. He is not satisfied just to bring us to an initial experience with Him. He wants the relationship to continue. Evaluate your relationship with God. Are you grounded and steadfast in faith and not moved away from the hope of the gospel? What actions will you take this week to be more grounded and steadfast in faith and not be moved away from the hope of the gospel?

PRAYER

Lord, You are the perfect and good God of light. Thank You for loving us so much that You gave Your only begotten Son, that if we believe in Him, we will not perish, but we will have ever lasting life with You. Thank You, for providing a way, a path for reconciliation with You. That we may be presented faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. Lord, continually accomplish Your work in our lives and help us to be more grounded and steadfast in our faith. Amen.

"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)