

# Hebrews 2025 | The Gift of Forgiveness

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**Hebrews 10:1-18**

If you have your Bible please go to Hebrews chapter 10. That's where we're going to be today.

Last week G and I got to go to Arizona to drive around the reservations and give out gifts to the people living in those reservations. It was really, really cool. One of the places we went to was called Covered Wells and we got to give out presents to the natives that came to get toys through your generous donations. We were able to take toys out there but we don't really want to just give a kid a monster truck, right? We know that's what Mom and Dad came for and we know that's what the kid really wants but we have Eric and Brittany with Live Love Ministries there with us trying to tell the Christmas story about what God did in sending Jesus to come on a rescue mission for us and after they told the Christmas story Eric said, "Hey, Kory, do you want to share the gospel?" I said, "Absolutely." I got up and started to present the gospel and I could tell it was to a fidgety crowd. They were ready, right? They drove all that way and they wanted the monster truck. They wanted the presents. They were listening but they were fidgety because they wanted to get to the presents.

Maybe some of you are a little fidgety on this Christmas Sunday too. You're like.. *Ok, can we get through with this because after this I get to go open some presents. Christmas has begun...* Some of your kids are a little fidgety. Maybe some of you adults are a little fidgety because you want to get through this to get to the gifts. Yes, we took the people on the reservations gifts. We did the same thing at our church the weekend before. We gave people gifts but the reason for the gifts is to tell them the greatest gift and the greatest gift is Jesus. Compared to Him all of these things are just trinkets when there is actually treasure to be had and what I don't want this morning is for you to miss the treasure of Christ because of all the trinkets of Christmas. And they're good trinkets. There are some

awesome gifts we're going to get to open but here is what I really want you to see this morning. The greatest gift that you could receive, open, or give this Christmas is the gift of forgiveness. That's the greatest gift. You can be forgiven by God of all of your sins. You can receive that, remember that, walk in that, and live in that and then also you can also give forgiveness to others if you have been forgiven in Christ and that is what we're going to talk about this morning. Before we get to all the gift giving and opening that is going to happen this week, we're going to talk about the greatest gift that's been given and that is Christ who came to forgive us of our sin.

### **Scripture:**

**Hebrews 10:17-18 then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." 18 Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.**

The greatest gift is the gift of forgiveness. We're going to unpack that and talk about that. If you go back up to verse 1 we're going to see this statement, "it can never." We're going to see they had something that could never and maybe you have something that can never but I just want you to hear that line. Let's read where that comes from. Verse 1 says this, "For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near." That's been the argument for the last several weeks. The old system, Judaism, following the law, and bringing sacrifices to the temple can't actually make you perfect. They can't actually forgive your sins. It can never do what? Make you perfect.

Next he gives an argument of what that is in the next verse. Verse 2, "Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? 3 But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year." So his argument is this- if they did work, if sacrificing a goat in place of your sins actually worked and you actually got forgiveness then you would be cleansed. You would be perfect and you wouldn't have a guilty conscience anymore and you wouldn't have to do it again but because you have to do it again means the first time it didn't actually work.

It just pushed it forward. It didn't actually cleanse you or make you perfect. In fact, notice what he says, "For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins." It can never make you perfect. It's actually impossible for what they're trusting in to make them perfect before God. So it's dealing with that old covenant- sacrifices, the tabernacle, the temple, and the law. What does he say? It can never make you perfect.

Now, I think for most of us that is not what we're leaning on and trusting in. We're probably not trusting in a sacrifice at the temple because there is no temple anymore. That's not our "it" but I have a feeling for some of us we might have a different "it." See, their "it" was Judaism. Their "it" was giving a sacrifice at the temple and believing they would be forgiven but he says it can never. Some of us have a different "it." Maybe for you, you're "it" is morality. You know there's a problem. You know you don't always do what's right and in your mind if you can just do better, if you can become a good person, or if you can at least be better than your coworker, the one who is terrible, then you'll be accepted by God. It's morality, if you can do more good than bad then you'll be acceptable to God. That is your "it." Your "it" is morality and what does he say? It can never. It can never make you perfect because you can't be good enough. You have sin already.

Maybe your "it" is religion. Most of us live in the South and to be southern is to be religious. It's to work hard, play hard, and go to church on Sunday mornings. We love our mom, we eat chicken, and we go to church on Sunday morning. Whatever we do throughout the week and on Friday night or Saturday night is our business but then we wake up and go to church because that is what we do. Maybe you said a prayer at Vacation Bible School, that got you saved, and now you're going to live however you want to live but you go to church on Sunday morning and you're good because you're in the religious system. You consider yourself a good ole' Baptist or a good ole' Methodist depending on where you go. You're in the religious system and that is your "it." But what does the preacher say? It can never make you perfect. Your religious system, just saying a prayer, just coming to church, or just reading your Bible can't actually make you right with God.

Maybe your "it" is activism. You go to the political right or political left. You're going to find a cause, give yourself to that cause, dive into it, and believe that you've messed up but you're going to pay it forward. You're going to make things better. If you do enough good, find your purpose, and make a difference then when God sees you at the end he's going to say... *Hey, you really made a mark. You did good. Come on into heaven...* because your "it" is activism. The problem is it can never make you perfect. No matter how good you make the world, no matter how much of a difference you make, you are sinful before God and you owe him death.

Maybe your "it" is escapism. You just try to escape that guilt. You know you're wrong but you're an escapist so you're just going to binge watch Netflix and doon scroll on your phone. You're going to give yourself to a sports league and go all in. You're going to be passionate about it and constantly that about that. You're always going to numb that thought that you know you're not okay with some form of entertainment, some form of therapy, or some form of going, doing, and trying. You're just going to escape it by going to something else. Maybe it's a substance abuse or a medication. You're going to escape all of it and not deal with what's really wrong. You need to be forgiven by a Holy God. So what does escapism do? It can never wash away your sins. It can never make you perfect before a Holy God.

So, the question is this- what is your "it"? There "it" was sacrifice and the tabernacle. That's probably not our "it" but you might have another "it" besides Jesus and if you have another "it" besides Jesus it's not going to work. It's like the gift card I got at Culver's. I was in line a few Sunday nights ago. After the Lord's Supper a lot of us go to Culver's. I was in line getting ready to buy my Culver's meal and I had six kids with me so when we go through the price racks up pretty high. The cash register was showing around 60 or 70 bucks and as I was getting ready to pay one of my dear friends comes in, pulls out a Culver's gift card, hands it to me and says, "Hey, why don't you use that?" I said, "Sweet! I need a little bit of help here." I get the Culver's gift card. I hand it to the guy, he swipes it, hands it back, and says, "that will be \$55.47." I said, "Excuse me, I had the gift card. Could you swipe it?" He said, "I did. It had \$5.00 on it." I turned to the guy whose wife was behind him mortified thinking he just gave me a \$100 gift card and it actually had \$5 on it. Now I'm still in debt

\$55.47 that I have to cough up. The gift card, he thought it was good, he thought it would work but it wasn't quite enough.

See, that is some of you right now. You have a friend who tells you if you'll just do this or just do that it will work out. It's going to be good. Just take the gift card, swipe it, God will take you. The problem is it's not actually covering your debt. You owe God an eternal debt of death and no good works, no religion, no activism, no escapism, and no Culver's gift card can get you out of that. Only the blood of Christ can forgive you and pay your sin debt. That's why we need Christmas and that's why Christmas came.

Notice verse 5, "Consequently..." So because of this reason, because the gift cards don't work, because all of the "its" can never, "when Christ came into the world..." That is the shocking part of Christmas. What other religion has a manger scene? What other religion says what child is this, where he lay where ox and sheep are grazing? This is God who became a man, who was born of a virgin womb to take on flesh. That is why John's prologue is so magical. It's because you have the Word who was with God and IS God who took on flesh, became flesh and dwelt among us. God became a man. That is the mind-blowing part of Christmas. When Christmas came, notice, Jesus came into the world.

Now, you might be asking this question- why exactly did he come then? We haven't dealt with that. Maybe you got invited by a friend and you're not sure what all this Christmas stuff is about. Why did he come? The angel told Joseph that he should name the baby Jesus for he will save his people from their sins. It's his very name. He was going to save his people. That is why he came- to save you and forgive you.

Now we're going to see that the preacher is going to say that Jesus who came actually prophesied and preached through David years before of why he had to come. He's going to quote Psalm 40 and here is what Jesus says in verse 5, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; 6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. 7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'"

I want you to see first the two negatives. First it says, "sacrifices and offerings you have not desired," and then "in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure." So God has no pleasure, no desire in all of the offerings they're giving. Now I'm going to say that's probably a little shocking to the people who are hearing this because it sure seems like God desires and has pleasures in the sacrifices because he's the one that told them to do it. It would be like a preacher telling you this morning... *Hey, God didn't really want you to come to Christmas Sunday service. He really has no desire that you're here. He's actually a little bit mad about it. And do you know what God wants me to tell you? I know you have a reading plan for 2026 but God just said don't do it. He actually doesn't want you to read the Word anymore. He's actually tired of you waking up early and praying to him. He doesn't want to hear from you anymore. He doesn't want you to hear from him. He doesn't want you to go to church or read your Bible anymore. He has no pleasure in those things...*

Now, how many of you would be a little shocked to hear that? That seems wrong because that seems like exactly what God wants us to do. That is how the people hearing this in the psalms and also in Hebrews would feel... *What do you mean? God told us to bring sacrifices. This is what he desires. This is what he has pleasure in...* The psalm is saying he has no pleasure in these things. Why is that? Because they're doing them in the wrong way. It's like if you came to church this morning because you believe by being here it will make you right with God... *Hey, God. Look at me! I'm here. I have my sports coat on. I checked the box. I'm good, right?...* God has no pleasure in that. If I came to make myself right with God then he has no pleasure in that. No, I'm coming in response because God has made me right with him. When I read my Bible it's in response. It's not performance. When I worship it's response. It's not performance. See, they had it backwards and we get it backwards sometimes. So God doesn't desire sacrifices but notice the prophecy. I love what he says here, "but a body you have prepared for me."

Now, if you go to Psalm 40 you'll see that's not actually the line that David said. In fact, in the Hebrew it's actually "you have dug out ears for me" but our preacher says and quotes it, "but a body you have prepared for me." We have a little bit of discrepancy here which makes us panic so let's

do a little history for a second. For us, if you're going to quote a source and you put it in quotes it has to be word for word and you have to footnote it or you'll fail the paper. Well, in ancient times you didn't have to do that. You didn't have to quote things word for word. You could take words and phrases and then turn them around and give it a different meaning for different uses. They did this all the time. That was completely normal so he's not doing anything that is against the rules in his sermon but what he's doing is taking this statement, David saying you're going to dig out ears for me, I'm going to be one that listens to you and obeys you when everybody else obeys you, and he's giving it a fuller extent. Not only is God going to dig out ears, but he's going to make a body. He's going to prepare a body for His Son. In the womb of Mary is going to come One not just with dug out ears but a whole body ready to obey God. Why does he need a body? Because we need obedience. To get forgiveness, we need obedience. We have to obey God. We have not obeyed God. We owe God obedience. Do you know what Jesus did? He says the prophecy is you're preparing a body for me and in the womb of Mary, God became flesh. God took on humanity. God became a man. Why? To do what Adam couldn't and that is obey God. Remember, Adam disobeyed. He messed up. He brought judgement. To do what you can't do. You can't obey God. You mess up. To do what I couldn't do. I don't obey God. I mess up. We all owe God obedience but none of us are obedient so we need one human to be obedient. We need human to say yes to God and no to sin and that one human is Jesus Christ, the God Man who became a man for our obedience.

Notice what he says. What's the body for? "I have come to do your will." See, we all have a mixture of God's will and our own will and often our own will wins over God's will. But what did Jesus pray in the garden? Not my will, but your will and he lived that. In every moment he said yes to God and no to his own desires. And notice this is, "as it is written of me in the scroll of the book." In other words, Christmas didn't just start 2,000 years ago. It started in the very beginning. In the garden, when we fell, there was a prophecy of a son's coming to crush Satan's head. Let's look at three texts. We could do hundreds of them but we'll just do three for the sake of time and we'll start in Isaiah.

**Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.**

By the way, Immanuel means God with us. Last night Matthew said, "Hey, Callen is coming. Can you show him?" I said, "Absolutely. Give me his name. Let's go. This is awesome." Can you imagine if last night Matthew would have said... *Hey, I'm bringing my little boy and we've decided to name him God so when you announce him can you let everybody know that he's the one true God and they should all worship him?...* What do you think I would have said to Matthew?... *Hey, bro. I love you, but no. We're not doing that..*

Then, can you imagine if dad, who by the way came over last night, had said... *Hey, I've got a couple babies that I'm going to show. I worked it all out and I know this is crazy but I've been looking at the Old Testament and the parents are telling me some things about this baby that I've looked up and it's actually true. There are prophecies about this baby so when I show this baby tomorrow I'm going to say he's the one true God and everyone should worship him... What do you think I'm going to say to my dad?... No, we're not doing that. There is zero chance...*

That is not happening. That is crazy stuff, right? A baby who is going to come from a virgin and be named God with us is what we say about Jesus so let the jar of that shock you a little bit.

**Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

That's a big name for a baby. We're going to need some evidence. Well, he said he was going to die and rise again and he did so that's pretty good evidence that he's actually God. He did a lot of other things to show us that as well.

**Micah 5:2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me**

**one who is to be ruler is Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.**

From all eternity is where he's coming from. This isn't just a baby; this is God who became a man in the womb of Mary and laid in a manger. No other religion has a manger scene. Only Christianity. God became a man and humbled himself and laid in a manger.

Why did Jesus come to sanctify his people? Notice what it says in verse 8, Jesus came to sanctify. Verse 8 says this, "When he had said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), 9 then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. 10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

When Jesus quotes that psalm, according to the preacher, he's doing away with the first and he's establishing a second. He's establishing a new covenant and what does the new covenant do? It actually sanctifies us not through a sacrifice and not through a tabernacle because they could never. We are sanctified through the body of Jesus. That is how we're made right with God. It's through the body of Christ. There is no other way. Only Jesus. Always Jesus.

One of my favorite verses that really summarizes this is 2 Corinthians chapter 5, verse 21. Notice what it says. If you're unsure what the gospel is this is the summary of the gospel. "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." That is the good news of the gospel. For our sake, God made Jesus to be sin and Jesus knew no sin. He was not a sinner. He's never messed up but here's the gospel- Jesus became sin for you so that you could become his righteousness. Jesus became sin so that you could become righteous. That's the whole gospel! That is the glorious news! He lived the life you couldn't. He died the death you deserve. Notice that little phrase, "in him." That little phrase, "in him," in Christ is one that's all over the Bible and it's explosive in theology because it means everything has changed if you're in Christ. There are two realities. You are either in Adam or in Christ. There is no other reality. It's only those two. It's not

you're good or bad or you're religious or non-religious. No, you're either in Christ or you're in Adam. All of the "it can't" phrases are Adams. You're either in Adam or you're in Christ and if you're in Christ hear what has happened. Christ has taken your sin and he's given you his righteousness. He sanctified you through his very body through his work on the cross. So what's Jesus doing right now after sanctifying you? He's seated in victory.

Notice what we see in verse 11, "And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet." What is Jesus doing right now? He's seated in victory. We've talked about this the last few weeks but every priest is walking around and doing work because work always has to be done. Jesus sits down because his work is finished. It was a one-time sacrifice for all of your sins and for all of your forgiveness. You have full forgiveness because Jesus is seated. If Christ has to get up then you might have something to do but because Christ is seated you're fully forgiven if you're in him.

Notice where he's seated. He's seated at the right hand of God in a place of power and majesty. The place where a king sits to rule. That is where Jesus is- a place of power and ruling over the cosmos. That is where Christ is seated. But notice this- there is this word, "until." So he's seated in victory at the right hand of God and verse 13 says this, "waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet." Christ is seated in full victory. You have full forgiveness. He's also seated from that time until. What does until mean? Until means he's not going to sit down forever. Until means he's going to get up. Until means Christmas is about the coming of Christ but also the reality that Christ is still coming again. There is an until. There is an already but not yet. There is this- I've dealt with the problem but I haven't dealt with all of the problems yet. There is until where Christ is coming to deal with not just the problem of sin, but all the problems it creates. He is coming back.

I told you I went all over Arizona delivering presents. One of the last villages I went to was a little village called Peoic. It was late on Sunday night. We drove three hours because it's almost to the border of Mexico.

It's a small village with little rooms so it doesn't take all of us to set up the toy shop so I was actually outside hanging out with the people and trying to get to know them and share the gospel with them. I ran into this girl named Vivian who was coming to get toys for her kids and I said, "Vivian, this is going to be a good day. We've got so many good toys." I was a salesman for free toys. I really didn't have to sell them since they're free toys but I did. I said, "We have monster trucks. You're going to love it. How many kids do you have? You're going to want to come it. It's going to be great." But I could tell she wasn't excited. Her face was pretty somber. I said, "Vivian, I hope you have a good Christmas. Is there anything wrong?" She said, "Well, a month ago today my daughter's boyfriend was murdered in my front yard and we just had a little memorial for him yesterday because it was his birthday and I can't get that sight out of my head. Even still, if I'm cooking or doing anything and any blood comes up it sends me back because I'm the one who had to clean it up."

Here I was with Vivian trying to get her excited about presents in the next room. These two scenarios were so, so different. She was so isolated. What does any of this Christmas stuff have to do with having someone murdered in their front yard? That's real! That's hard! What does this have to do with that? Then, a few moments later it was like God's Spirit connected the dots and that has everything to do with this because the reason Christ came was for the problem. It was to deal with sin. It was to deal with our sin. It was to pay the price for sin but the promise of Christmas is that it's not done quite yet. There are still murders happening in front yards just moments away from Christmas presents because it's not quite done. I was able to tell Vivian, "We're going to tell you in a moment how Christ came to take away your sins and to take away my sins but I want to tell you this- he's not done yet. Christmas is also about a second coming. When heaven and earth receive her king, as far as the curse is found, he's coming back and he's not just going to get rid of the problem but he's going to get rid of ALL problems. He's going to make all wrongs right. He's going to deal with all of the injustice. He's going to deal with all the things that have happened to you and happened to me. He is going to conquer and guess what? In the new kingdom there is going to be no more murders in front yards. Do you know what Satan does? He kills, steals, and destroys. That is what he does. Christ came to give us life and

life abundantly. He came the first time to deal with our sin and he's coming the second time to deal with sin and all of sin's effects."

Do you know what the second coming will bring? Christ putting his enemies under his feet. He will crush Satan once and for all, sin once and for all. So why are we still waiting for the until? Why hasn't Christ returned yet? One of the reasons is because he still wants to make enemies friends and if he came right now, if I'm honest you might be one of the enemies that is put under his feet. You might be one of the enemies swept up in judgment because you don't have forgiveness and you're not in Christ and if you're not in Christ it's not going to end well with you. He's going to deal with all sin and all sinners and if that includes you still you will get justice. You will get hell forever. That is the bad news but it is still until. It is still not yet because Christ wants to make you who are his enemy, a friend by his death, burial, and resurrection. He wants to give you the gift of forgiveness so you don't have to get the judgement of wrath. He's offering you forgiveness today, right now, so that when that moment comes, when that until dawns, you're not an enemy but a friend and you won't be put under his feet. You'll be wrapped up in his arms. So what is he giving you right now? The gift of forgiveness. That is what he's offering you right now- the gift of forgiveness.

Notice verse 14, "For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified." Remember, it can never sanctify, purify, or make us holy. It can never work because sacrifices, religion, and working hard can never fix it but Christ, by a single offering, actually perfected us. Those who are being sanctified, if you're a Christian, you are perfect and you're being made perfect. That is justified but now you're being sanctified and it's all the work of Jesus in your life.

Then, I love what the preacher says the Holy Spirit says in verse 15. It says this, "And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, 16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds." There is a new covenant. It says I'm going to make you new-new heart, new spirit, new inside. You're going to obey from the inside out. I'm going to make you brand new. That is the reality of the new covenant. Then he adds, and this is what I want you to lock into, in verse

17, "then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." Did you hear that? If you're in Christ then you've been made new. Therefore, you are fully forgiven. God will not remember your sins anymore. He doesn't forget them but he chooses to actively not remember them anymore and to never hold them against you again. That is full forgiveness. That is why the new covenant is so much better than the old. In the old covenant there is remembrance of sin. It's about trying hard and doing this and doing that. In Christ there is full forgiveness because it actually worked. He died and rose from the dead which means you have full forgiveness.

Notice, what does that mean for us? Verse 18, "Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin." That is the good news. If the Holy Spirit says you're made new then he also says you're fully forgiven. I want that to sink in for a moment. You are fully forgiven if you're in Christ and if you're not forgiven what I want to do during the remainder of our time is to try to give you the gift of forgiveness through the Holy Spirit. I want to offer it to you by way of the gospel. The problem is you have to know you need it in order to want to receive it.

Have you ever had that awkward moment when your kid is opening a present and don't respond rightly? I've had several of those moments. It's scary when kids open presents especially when you don't know what's coming when grandma or uncle gives them a gift. I remember one of my cousins on the couch who got a present from someone as a five year old. He tears into it, pulls it out, and it's a shirt. This five year old boy got a shirt for Christmas. He looked at it and without hesitation said, "I don't want that." His parents were mortified and tried to apologize. Luckily that night I was able to tell my kid, "Hey, did you see what your cousin did? Don't ever do that. Whatever you open act surprised." So, kids, if you're listening, if you open something you don't like just act surprised. With kids you just never quite know because when they don't actually want something they're going to react like it.

See, it's scary for a kid to open a present because they might not actually want what's being offered. I'm afraid for some of us, we don't want forgiveness because we don't think we need it. It's like the shirt to a five year old. That is some of you! You don't think you need forgiveness

because you live in a culture that tells you all the time that God is love and is only loving and always loves and no matter what you do he's proud of you and really happy with you. Just live your life and in the end he's going to say good job, I love you, let's hug. That's God to you. He's just all love. The Bible says God is love but also that God is HOLY, HOLY, HOLY. His love is governed by his holiness and to be holy is to be completely pure, completely separate from sin. A holy love must hate. I know that might shock some of you but in order to truly love you must hate. If you don't hate then you don't love. I'll give you an example. If you love truth how must you feel about lies? You must hate them because a lie is the opposite of truth. A lie is an enemy of the truth. A lie is a parasite to truth. You can't say you love the truth and also love lies. You can't have both. If you say you love life then you can't also love murder. No, if you love life then you're going to hate murder because it's the taking of innocent life. So for God to love he must hate and here is what God loves- he loves righteousness. He loves what is right and what is good, pure, and holy. Therefore, he must hate what is not right, unholy, and unpure. He must hate sin because he loves righteousness. The psalms say God feels indignation every day. He has his bow wet, he's pulled back, and he's ready to strike. His wrath is poured out is what Romans tells us, right now on the ungodliness of men because God is holy. And because God is loving he must hate sin. For some of you who are living in sin and enjoying your sin, I hope it's a wake up call by the Holy Spirit right now to say... *Hey, you need forgiveness because your sin is not okay. God's wrath is poured out upon your sin and if you die in your sins you'll face his judgement forever. Therefore, receive the gift..*

First, you have to know you need it and second you have to receive it. You have to receive the gift. What is the gift? You have to know what it is. You have to believe that this gift is what it is. What is the gift? It's Christ alone. That is salvation. It's not any it, it's not trying, and it's not working. No, it's coming to Christ and Christ alone. It's not Jesus plus a little bit of something else. No, it's just Jesus. You repent of all of your its and all of your trying and you turn and trust fully in Christ... *Jesus, I believe that your life was enough to save me. I believe your death paid my debt and now I give my life to you and I'm believing in you as my Lord and Savior. It's 100% you, Jesus. I need you to save me and forgive me...*

It's all Christ. That is how you receive the gift of salvation. When you get offered a gift what do you actually have to do? You have to open it. That's what receiving is. It's opening the gift. It's saying yes... *I know you died. I know you rose again. I want to say yes to that. I want to open it up. I want that to be true in my own account and now I want to start living as a forgiven person because of what Christ has done for me...*

Here's the glorious news- God wants to give you a gift and the gift is salvation. The gift is forgiveness. It's better than all the trinkets you're going to open this week. It's the treasure that all of us in one sense are chasing after- forgiveness by God.

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