

A group of people dressed in biblical-style clothing are walking down the steps of a grand, classical building. The building features a large, ornate golden door with a semi-circular archway above it. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. The people are dressed in white and brown robes, with some wearing head coverings. The overall atmosphere is one of a significant event or journey.

*God's
Unspeakable Gift*

Jimmy Stallard

God's Unspeakable Gift



Jimmy Stallard

Treasures of Truth Ministries

**Dedicated to Dr. Sam Wolfe, who preached
to me a clear gospel message ... my eternal thanks.**

Cover photo is used by permission of the Holy Land Experience, a ministry of Zion's Hope in Orlando, Florida. The photo captures a moment of the drama depicting Mary, Joseph and Jesus as presented at The Holy Land Experience. Cover photo by Conley Stallard.

© 2003 - 2008 Jimmy Stallard

This book's text may not be copied or reproduced in part or in whole without the written consent of the author.

As a downloadable eBook, the user may print one copy for his/her own use.

To the Reader,

No greater question could captivate the human heart than the one pondered by Job so many centuries ago. In the midst of his suffering and anguish he cried out “how should man be just with God?” (Job 9:21).

In other words, how can a sinful man be right with a Holy God. Today our culture has come to deny both the sinfulness of man and the Holiness of God. Because of this, there needs to be, as never before, a proclamation and explanation of the great truths of salvation.

Every lost person needs to consider these truths. Every saved person needs to grasp them more fully that he might have full assurance and be an effective witness for Christ.

To this end, I have developed this little book to guide the reader in his own study of the Bible. May the Lord use it to win someone to Christ and to establish believers in the faith.

Through Christ,

Jimmy Stallard

**Jimmy Stallard, Director
Treasures of Truth Ministries**

“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.” 2 Corinthians 9:15

What It Means to Be Lost

The Reality of God

No where does the Bible try to “prove” that God is real. The existence of God is assumed by the Bible which begins by declaring...

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).

Furthermore, the Bible teaches that all men have a built-in consciousness or awareness of this Creator...

“Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead so that they are without excuse” (Rom 1: 19, 20).



Quarter earth as seen from moon

This awareness of God comes from our conscience (Romans 2:11-16) and from viewing the universe that He has created (Romans 1:20). Far from saying God does not exist, the Bible teaches that an honest atheist does not exist. Every man, woman, boy, or girl—deep down inside—knows there is a God.

This does not mean that man’s perception of Him is correct. In fact, man’s perception of God has become marred because of sin

(Romans 1:21-28). His rebellion toward God, from the time of his fall in the garden of Eden until now, has caused him to “remake” his Creator into his own image rather than accepting what the Bible says about Him.

The Sinfulness of Man

To modern man there is no such thing as sin and therefore, no absolute standard of right or wrong. Man is considered ill, not evil. He is thought to be sick, but not sinful. This view of moral relativism claims that mankind is more or less a victim of his environment.

But the Bible declares that man is in a lost state. For a man to be lost is for that man to be confirmed in his sin and rebellion toward God. Man is a sinner by birth, by practice, and by choice. He is not a sinner primarily because he does wrong things. He is a sinner because his nature is to be against God (Psalm 51: 5).

Sin is defined many ways in the Bible. It means to miss the mark, to go beyond the boundary, to transgress. It refers to being guilty and to be without God or to fall away. This is the plight and condition of all men and women before God:

“...there is none righteous, no, not one... For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:10, 23).

Man is accountable to God for every word, every attitude, every action, every habit, and every motive of his heart. He must keep the law of God. Who has not broken His law? Who has not put other things before? Or refused to keep His holy day? Or dishonored his or her parents? Or been guilty of stealing, immorality, covetousness, or lying? (See Exodus 20:1-17)

The only verdict for a man who is lost is one of guilty (Romans 3:19). Paul gives to us a wealth of insight by describing the lost person in Ephesians 2:1-12:

- dead in trespasses and sins v. 1
- influenced by the world v. 2
- controlled by Satan v. 2
- characterized by disobedience v. 2
- dominated by the flesh v. 3
- destined for wrath v. 3
- without Christ v. 12
- strangers concerning truth v. 12
- having no hope v. 12
- without God v. 12

The word “lost” means (from the Greek word “apollumi”) to be destroyed, to perish, to lose, to die, or to mar to the fullest extent. The sinfulness of man puts him under the condemnation of God. The Word of God says a lost man is condemned already:

“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:18).

John 3:36 confirms this truth when it says he is abiding under the wrath of God. A man who dies as a lost man will spend eternity in hell paying the full penalty for his own sinful ways (Luke 16: 19-31).



The Truth About Hell

The idea of hell is ridiculed in our day and has been relegated to the level of superstition. But the Word of God is true and powerful. The doctrine of hell is not something that has been invented by the church. Hell is a real place where real people will spend a real eternity suffering consciously the penalty of their sins:

“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41).

Hell is more than a swear word. It is an awful reality of fearful judgment (Matthew 13:41,42). Once a person is in hell there is no hope of escape. Hell is an eternal trap which results in eternal confinement in the prison of the damned:

“And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night...” (Revelation 14:11).

Many believe a just and loving God would not allow a man to go to hell. However, God is perfectly holy and must judge sin because of His nature. If He did not judge sin, He would cease to be God. But, in fact, a lost man seals his own destiny by rejecting the claims of Jesus Christ upon his life:

“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Revelation 21:8).

Jesus Christ Himself warned people of facing the awful prospect of eternal judgment:

“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28).

God's Gift To A Lost World

Many parents bestow expensive gifts upon their children. Some do so because they love them and want to give them all they can. Others do so because of trying to earn the love of the children in return or to maintain their affection.

But one of the greatest gifts that a parent can give a child is not material things. The best gift a parent can give a child is the gift of themselves. This means the time of personal, close fellowship. It involves the sharing of their lives together.

In the same way, God has given to His greatest creature, man, much wealth and material things. He has given life, health, and an entire universe for him to explore.

But the greatest gift God could ever give to any man is not the material universe He has created but the gift of Himself. *The whole message of the Bible demonstrates the truth that God has done just that.*

The Person of Christ

The man we call Jesus was more than a great teacher, more than a prophet, and more than a good man. The central teaching of the Christian faith is the good news that God Himself reached down to man by entering this world system. The Bible says:

- “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1).
- “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).
- “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit,

seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory” (I Timothy 3:16).

Jesus, the Christ, was and still remains, God in human flesh. He was not half-God and half-man. He was the unique Son of God, the God-man. He is 100% God and 100% man. There has never been another like the Lord Jesus. He is the sinless, spotless Lamb of God come to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29; II Cor 5:21; Heb 4:15).

Though Jesus was God, He entered fully into the experience of humanity (of course without sin). The fact He was human is obvious from the Scriptures. He hungered (Matt 4:2), He thirsted (John 19:28), He slept (Matt 8:24), He wept (John 11:35) and he ate food (Luke 24:30).

The Gift Of Christ

The gift that Christ brings for our salvation is the finished work of the Cross. Jesus did not die as a martyr to a cause. He stated:

“Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father” (John 10:17-18).



Jesus voluntarily laid down His life as a substitute for sinners, the just for the unjust (I Peter 3:18), and became the sacrifice, paying the penalty of a broken law.

In the six hours that Jesus hung and died on the Cross, He shed His precious blood and suffered the equivalent of eternal hell for every person

who has lived or ever will live. He received the judgment that we deserved, that we might receive a salvation that we do not deserve:

“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9).

The Living Savior

God sealed His approval for the finished work of Christ on the Cross by raising His Son from the dead bodily. The resurrection of Jesus was the heartbeat of the early church (Acts 2:30, 32; 3:15, 26; 4:10, 33; 5:29, 30; 10:39, 40; 13:30-38; 17:2, 3, 18, 30-32).

It signified the hope of eternal life and gave courage and confidence for every day living. Even more significantly, it proved the claims that Christ had made for Himself, and all that He accomplished he did so on our behalf. Any lost person can enter into His accomplishments when he becomes a Christian through faith in Christ.

- “...because I live, ye shall live also” (John 14:19).
- “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive” (1Corinthians 15:22).
- “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” (John 10:9).



How To Receive God's Unspeakable Gift

Most people, when asked, will claim to be a good person. Very few will confess to being a bad person. The Bible warns us:

“Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?” (Prov 20:6)

So many believe that they are saved or safe from God's judgment because they are more moral than the next person. Surely God would not judge them when they have so much good in them. Thinking like this is dangerous and deceptive. Again the scriptures tell us:

“But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away” (Isa 64:6).

We have no goodness to offer God that is good enough. God demands perfection and every man stands before the throne of his own conscience and knows he is guilty.

“Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God” (Rom 3:19).

Conviction of Sin

For a man to truly see his condition before God is for that man to be convicted of his sins. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to open a man's eyes to his condition as a breaker of God's laws and cause him to pursue salvation (John 1:8-11).

Conviction — To convince, reprove, rebuke, to show or demonstrate as guilty, to reveal the remedy.

The spirit of God uses the Word of God and reveals to a lost person what he needs to do in order to enter into the right relationship with God.

Condition of Salvation

No man can come to God on his own terms. He cannot bargain his way into an agreement. And every man must come the same way:

- “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23).
- “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).
- “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

He must acknowledge his pride and rebellion before God and admit he is sinful in God’s sight (Rom 3:10-18). A man who refuses to acknowledge this has never seen himself as lost and God only saves the lost person who honestly confesses he or she is lost.

Repentance — The change of mind with respect to a man’s relationship to sin, death, and God. This change of mind involves recognition of sinfulness, a ceasing of rebellion, and a yielding by faith to the provision of salvation provided by Christ.

When a man comes to God with this heart attitude he is ready to believe on Christ. He cannot believe on his own works for he will never be justified by keeping the law (Rom 3:28). He must come by faith in the precious blood of Jesus (Rom 3:25; Gal 3:26).

Faith — Trusting in, relying upon, depending on, resting on, the work of Christ on the Cross as our only hope of salvation. Faith excludes depending on our own good deeds and believes on Christ to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

Over and over again the Bible promises everlasting life to one who believes on Christ:

- “He that believeth on him is not condemned....” (John 3:18)
- “He that believeth on him hath everlasting life....” (John 3:36)
- “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not condemnation: but is passed from death unto life” (John 5:24).
- “To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins” (Acts 10:43).
- “And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (Acts 16:30, 31)
- “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph 2:8, 9)

Prayer to Receive The Gift Of Salvation

An expression of this repentant faith can be found in a prayer like the following:

“Dear Lord, I know that I am a sinner. I deserve to be judged for my sins. I now trust you to save me and take you as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe you died for my sins and were raised from the dead. Help me to serve you from this day forward. Amen.”



The Bible promise is “*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*” (Romans 10:13).

Certainty Of Salvation

The Bible teaches clearly and emphatically that a Christian can know for certain that he is saved, that he has everlasting life, that he is going to heaven when he dies, and that he has received God’s unspeakable gift. He can know all this now, in this life:

“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life....” (1 John 5:13)

God very much wants us to know that we are saved, if we have trusted Christ as our Savior. Assurance of salvation should be ours the moment we claim it (1 John 5:10; Rom 8:16). We can rest upon the promises of the Word of God. If we have done what the Bible says to do in order to be saved, we have eternal life:

“He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life” (1 John 6:12).

A Secure Relationship

Not only do Christians possess a know-so salvation, they possess a secure relationship. No words could be more comforting than those of Jesus when he spoke of Himself as the shepherd and believers as His sheep in John 10:27-30:

- They respond to His voice v. 27
- They are known by Him v. 27
- They follow Him v. 27
- They have the gift of eternal life v. 28
- They will never perish v. 28
- They cannot be robbed of salvation by anyone or anything v. 29, 30

Salvation is not only free, it is also full. Christ does not offer a partial salvation or put the believer on some sort of probation. The great scope of God's unspeakable gift deals with a man's nature, not just his acts. Christ has saved us from sin, death, hell....***and from ourselves.***

A Changed Life

God's unspeakable gift, when received, changes an individual for all eternity. Jesus said its effects can be seen (John 3:8) and that it remakes the life:

“The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit” (John 3:8).

That is why a believer is said to be “***born again***” (John 3:1-7).

- “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor 5:17).

- “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Eph 2:10).

The more a Christian grows in his relationship with the Lord, the more his salvation will be seen. This spiritual growth does not “keep” the believer saved, it is a natural outgrowth of the new life received as God’s unspeakable gift. The more it is nourished, the more its power and influence will be felt in the believer’s life.

What A New Christian Should Do (Acts 2:41-47)

- Be baptized v. 41
- Enter the fellowship of a Bible-believing church v. 41
- Learn basic teachings of the Bible v. 42
- Fellowship with other believers privately and publicly v. 42
- Observe the ordinance of the Lord’s Supper or Communion v. 42
- Learn to pray v. 42
- Share the new-found faith with others who are lost v. 46



**If this study booklet has helped you in your life, or
if you prayed to receive Christ, please let us know.
Write to:**

**Jimmy Stallard, Director
Treasures of Truth Ministries
P.O. Box 931611
Norcross, Georgia 30003**

Check one of the following:

- I would like more study help**
- I received Christ after reading this booklet**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

God's Unspeakable Gift Study Booklet

