

# Unwrapping Our Greatest Gift

## Being Honest With God and One Another

Sunday, January 3, 2010

Pastor Warner Smith

### Message Truth:

Each person who has received Christ as Savior is the recipient of God's greatest gift. Too often, however, we fail to realize our full potential as Christians. One reason for this failure is the confusion in the minds of many Christians concerning their salvation. Too few of us fully unwrap the meaning and significance contained in the gift of our salvation. This Christmas we will seek to better understand the gift of our salvation. While each of us who have accepted Christ as Savior are complete, often we fail to fully realize our full potential as Christians. Former attitudes, habits and false beliefs impede our spiritual progress. Today we will focus on the need each of us has in living out our salvation for God's glory in the whole of our lives. Although this goal is beyond our ability, we should still strive to obtain it while also being honest with God and one another of our ultimate shortcoming.

<sup>31</sup> *To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* John 8:31-32

<sup>14</sup> *For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. <sup>15</sup> And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

① God wants us to be honest - with H\_\_\_\_\_, o\_\_\_\_\_, and o\_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>6</sup> *Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.* Psalm 51:6

**There are ups and downs in our relationship with God.**

**Example: The Psalmist reveals an open and honest relationship with God, warts and all.**

**A\_\_\_\_\_ expressed to God due to feelings of a\_\_\_\_\_**

<sup>9</sup> *I say to God my Rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?" <sup>10</sup> My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me, saying to me all day long, "Where is your God?"* Psalm 42:9-10

**A\_\_\_\_\_ expressed to God about o\_\_\_\_\_**

<sup>6</sup> *Break the teeth in their mouths, O God; tear out, O LORD, the fangs of the lions! <sup>7</sup> Let them vanish like water that flows away; when they draw the bow, let their arrows be blunted. <sup>8</sup> Like a slug melting away as it moves along, like a stillborn child, may they not see the sun. <sup>9</sup> Before your pots can feel the heat of the thorns— whether they be green or dry—the wicked will be swept away.* Psalm 58:6-9

**David wrote of feelings of d\_\_\_\_\_**

<sup>4</sup> *My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death assail me. <sup>5</sup> Fear and trembling have beset me; horror has overwhelmed me.* Psalm 55:4-5

<sup>24</sup> *Why do you hide your face and forget our misery and oppression? <sup>25</sup> We are brought down to the dust; our bodies cling to the ground.* Psalm 44:24-25

Sometimes he was c\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? <sup>2</sup> How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? Psalm 13:1-2

Sometimes he wrote of his l\_\_\_\_\_ for the Lord

<sup>1</sup> As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. <sup>2</sup> My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? Psalm 42:1-2

David wrote of his t\_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid? <sup>2</sup> When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. <sup>3</sup> Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident. Psalm 27:1-3

At other times David was filled with p\_\_\_\_\_ for God

<sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. <sup>2</sup> Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever. <sup>3</sup> Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. Psalm 145:1-3

### Do you ever feel that:

- God doesn't care about me
- I am worthless; nobody will ever love me
- I'll never be able to change
- If people knew me, they wouldn't like me

## Good News

<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

<sup>4</sup> But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

Titus 3:4-5

## The Moment We Trust Christ:

● **A\_\_\_\_\_ your sins are forgiven**

<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. I John 1:9

● **You become a c\_\_\_\_\_ of G\_\_\_\_\_**

<sup>12</sup> Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— John 1:12

● **You receive e\_\_\_\_\_ life**

<sup>24</sup> "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. John 5:24

● **You are delivered from Satan's d\_\_\_\_\_ and transferred into the k\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ**

<sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, Colossians 1:13