Dear Open Door Family,

During this time of year when we think of GIFTS, both giving and receiving, it is appropriate that we stop and remember that with each gift we can pause to remember the Best Gift of ALL. God's gift to us. Paul says it is Indescribable... How do you describe a gift that cost someone their life? Along with the idea of gifts should also come the idea of being thankful. If we do not pause at various times during the day and simply reflect with gratitude on God's Grace, something is wrong with our hearts. May the Lord help us to see His Gift of our Lord Jesus in new light this Christmas and may we live Each day with Thankful hearts.

***2 Corinthians 9:15*** *Thanks be to God for His indescribable GIFT!*

***Colossians 3:15*** *(NLT) And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be THANKFUL.*

**From Inspiring Hymn Stories:** "The gift of salvation a personal relationship with almighty God what an indescribable gift! Yet how often do we sincerely thank our Lord for all that He has done in making this possible? Our lack of praise and thanksgiving for His gift of salvation can be likened to the response of the ten lepers after being miraculously healed by Christ (Luke 17:11–19). Only one returned to express gratitude. The interest of the other nine was centered more in what had happened to them personally than in remembering the One who had performed the miracle in their lives. Are we ever guilty of this same carelessness? It is interesting to imagine the life-long remorse that may have characterized these nine ungrateful lives... The words of this hymn have been greatly used of God since they were written in 1940 to allow believers to offer praise for the gift of their salvation..."

*Some thank the Lord for friends and home, for mercies sure and sweet;*
*but I would praise Him for His GRACE - in prayer I would repeat:*
***Chorus: Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul; thank you, Lord, for making me whole.***
***Thank you, Lord, for giving to me Thy great salvation so rich and free.***

**PRAYER:** Lord, help me to live out my thankfulness to You everyday. Lord, help me to remember each day your incredible Grace, and the Sacrifice that bought me and set me free from my slavery to sin and death.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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