

God Is the Perfect Gift Giver – All Year Long

- Oh come let us adore him, Xp Lord. My dear faithfl, joyfl & trmphant wrshprs of our newbrn Sav & Kng. Text: vs. 31-32. Well, opend gfts yet? You know: diff fams have diff trads for this. Some late eve on XE; some 1st thng morn Xmas; others wait til after ch on Xmas. Grwng up as child, my fam had certn trads: visit w/dad's side fam XE; visit w/mom's side fam Xmas aftrnoon. But as fam, opend gfts brght early, before ch, Xmas morn. And my mom was always one to hand gifts out. Know those gift tags (to this prsn/from)? My mom'd always: read tags, dstrbr the gifts.
- Well today, Gd is dstrbtng the gifts, inclndg grtst possbl Xmas gift you could ever receive: CJ your Sav! And on tag it says: to/for you, from Gd. Gd: PGG, not just at Xmas, but all yr long. And that's what les fr Rom today will show us.
- Paul: vs. 31a. What mean these things? Here in ch 8, Paul having us pause & look back on evthng wrttn so far. Rom is big bk, so let me share hghlghts; call: Rom Grtst Hts. Lstn for some your favs. Ch 1) **"I: not ashmd Gos, bec: pwr/Gd for salvtn of evone who bels."** 3) **"All've sinnd & fall shrt glry/Gd, and all're justfd freely by his grace thru redmptn that came by CJ. Gd presntd Xp as scrfc/atnmnt thru sheddng of his bld."** 5) **"Since we've been justfd thru faith, we've peace w/Gd thru our LJC;"** and **"Gd demnstrtd his own love for us in this: while we were still sinnrs, Xp died for us."** 6) Since we been bptzd into Xp, our sins died w/Xp, and smday we'll be raised fr dead w/Xp. Then ch 8, which many ppl've called grtst ch/Bbl; – if could only read 1 ch, and you read Rom 8, that'd be enuf. 8) **"Now no condmtn for those in CJ;"** no punshmnt for us, bec God's alrdy punshd J in our place, on cross. And 8) **"We know, all things, works good, those love."**
- Man, so much grace/gos! Rom Grtst Hts. And now make it to psg for today; Paul: wait min; pause there. Let's just stop/thnk re evthng I've just written about, evthng that God's done for you; and let's ask: vs. 31a. And when you see how richly hand/Lord's blssd your life: only possbl conclsn you could come to: God PGG. Loves us, cares, blesses; sends us his Son as perf gift, for us. God: for us.
- And if vs. 31b. Now, true: we have lot thngs wrkng vs us. Satan hates us; will do anythng can to dstry faith, sep us from J. Few vss after text: **"Who shall sep us fr love/Xp? Shall trble or hrdshp or perscutn or famine or nkdns or dngr or swrd?"** (35). Answr's no; but Stn's sure going try use those hrdshps to destry faith, sep us fr J. But **"if/ since" vs. 31b.** God: not vs us; he's for us. And Baby J: proof of that! Look in mngr at Baby J this Xmas morn & see proof that God is not vs us; he's for us. Thnk those gift tags that go on presnts. When my kids born in hosp: on end of crib, sign, name of baby, names parents – like gift tag: baby SMA, from Lord, to Ls. Well, on mngr, it's like there's sign/tag; has J's name, then says: from Lord, to/for us. God: for us. At Xmas, J leaves hvn to live w/us. J: Emnl, God w/us. And if God sends J be w/us, means God: for us. Let there be no doubt: God is PGG.
- Now comes this: vs. 32ab. Usually in Eng, to give up = quit or stop. But God didn't stop lovg us or give up on us. Instead, gave up his Son; handed him over, at great/painful cost. When you give smone a gift, there's a usly cost invlvd; have to spend \$ to give gift. Smtms at Xmas ppl rack up huge CC debt bec spend too much \$ on gifts. God didn't spend \$ on us. But think enormous cost for Fr give up his Son. **Vs. 32ab.** Let me mk comprsn: thnk Abrm & Isc fr OT. God comndd Ab scrfc son Isc on Mt. Moriah (very mnt on which Jrslm'd be built). So Ab trvld up mnt, w/wood, knife, son. Imagine horrbly agony in Ab's hrt – and his incrdbl deditn to Lord – as ties up Isc, lifts knife, about slay his son. God stopped that scrfc. Did not stop scrfc of his own Son.



God Fr, like Ab, **vs. 32ab**. Gave him up on cross, on Mt. Calvary, just few dzn ft away fr Mt. Moriah, exact place whr Ab did exact same thng 2k yrs befrhnd. Imagine horbl agny in Gd Fr's hrt – and his incrdble dedctn to us – as J was naild to cross, suffrs, dies. At Xmas, Fr gives up own Son, for us, to save us, bec loves us! **Vs. 32ab**. God is PGG.

- And not just at Xmas/GF; but all yr long. Often hear phrase: “gift that keeps on giving.” Usually means gift you can enjoy many times in fut, not just once, like: magzn sbscrptn, or annual pass to museum/zoo, financel invstmnt into interest bearng acctnt – gift keeps on giving. J: gift keeps on givng, not just Xmas, but all yr long. **Vs. 32** (he: Fr; him: givng us J). “**Grcsly give.**” More than 1 wrd for “give” in ancient Gk. There's the norm wrd for give, where litly hand item smone else. Then there's wrd for givng up/hndng over, as in “**he gave him up for us all.**” But then there's this word: to grcsly give; litly, “grace smone,” do them huge favor, out undsrvd love. Exmpls “gracious giving:” cancelng huge debt or forgivng wicked sins. Here Paul: not only does Gd give us J, and give him up for us; he also graces us; does huge favor for us, out undsrvd love.
- And what does he gracsly give us? **Vs. 32c**. When our PGG gracsly gives us J, grtst gift, he also includes all rest of hvn's gifts, as well – all gifts Paul wrote re in Roms Grtst Hts. We get: Gos, pwr Gd for slvtn those who bel; jstfd freely by his grace thru redmptn that came by CJ; peace w/Gd thru LJC. We've been baptd into dth/Xp, so smday we'll be raised w/Xp. Now no cndmntn/pnshmnt for those in CJ. And we have prom: in all things wrks for good. All this Gos/grace/these gifts are yours when you have J. It's like under Xmas tree, great big pckg wrppd up, your name on it; you open, it's J, best gift of all. And just when thought couldn't get any better, God: wait, I've got more gifts for you to open. You have a remrkbl list of gifts from your PGG: wealth of sprtl blessings, and countless pyscl/erthly blessings, as well. Bk Jms: “**Evry good & perf gift is from above, coming down fr Fr of hvnly lights (1:17)**. And these gifts are yours, not just at Xmas, not just once/yr, but all yr long. W/J you have a never-ending sbscrptn to God's grace/love, bec J is a gift that keeps on giving.
- ML, in yr 1530, preached a sermon on Xmas day, and spoke about this psg: **vs. 31b**. “*Greater words than these I cannot speak... For, if it is true that the child was born of the virgin and is mine, then I have no angry God, and I must know and feel that there is nothing but laughter and joy in the heart of the Father, and no sadness in my heart*” (AE 51:216). For **vs. 32**. In Xp we have evthng – this Xmas morn and all yr long – bec God is our PGG.

Romans 8:31-32

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?