

## Title: “God’s Giving”

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**Matthew 11:25-30**

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### **Overview:**

God gave to Christ everything, including the punishment for our sins. We are thankful for the forgiveness and salvation that we receive from God through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

### **Lesson:**

Tonight, we celebrate “God’s Giving” to Christ and Christ’s Giving to His church.

### **Message:**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Tonight’s message is taken from the Gospel of Matthew, the 11th chapter, starting with verse 25:

At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

This is God’s Word.

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving, a day reserved for gathering as family and friends in a spirit of thankfulness and appreciation. It is a time where the separation caused by miles of road are remediated, if just for the weekend, and where relationships are renewed and strengthened. It is a time where we reflect on what we hold most valuable: our loved ones, our health, and our God. And sometime tomorrow afternoon we will all gather around a table as one family and share a meal.

For some it’s a time of relaxation; a time when the worries of the world are set on the mantel and the simple joys of the moment fill the void. For others, it is a time of excitement; when family is once again gathered under a single roof and the room is filled with the buzz of conversations. And for others it is a time of anticipation; the starting line to the season of Christmas and the activities that fill December.

But, for others it is a time of great worry and stress. It’s a time for anxiety because of the strained relationships of the year, or the self-imposed expectation of a perfectly prepared meal. It’s a time for remembrance of those that have passed away, and whose absence we still feel today.

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving, but tonight, tonight is “God’s Giving” and we celebrate all that the Father gave to his Son. “For such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my

Father” Jesus says. All things. Everything. When we reflect on this statement what comes to my mind are the things of this world: the land and all that is on it, the sky and all that flies through it. I look to the heavens and see the stars, uncountable in number enveloped by a universe that is immeasurably vast. And I try to contemplate a God who is so much greater, so much more powerful than all that surrounds me, who through the power of his Word and through his son, Jesus Christ, created it all. And He gave this all to Christ to sustain and to rule.

But that wasn’t all that God gave to his son. From the very moment of the fall, in that great garden, God gave us his promise that he would send his son. As Adam and Eve bit into the fruit that one perfect day, all of creation changed and began to die. And as Christ continued to sustain it for our sake, God declared that he would restore what we had destroyed. In the garden, on that very day, God promised to send his son, Jesus into this world to do what we could not. And he would give to him the responsibility to reconcile us to God. But even that wasn’t all that God gave. As Jesus hung on the cross, with his arms stretched wide, God handed to him the eternal punishment that we should have experienced. God turned his back on Jesus as he bore the weight of our sin, completely alone and completely abandoned. And there on that cross he gave up his life for our benefit.

In response of Christ’s perfect obedience God handed over to him forgiveness for our sins; he salvation for our souls; and an eternal life in God’s presence.

And Christ handed that over to us.

His perfectness and his righteousness become ours in Christ. The perfectness that God sees in us is seen through the work of Christ.

You see, “God’s Giving” is not just to Christ but it is also “Christ’s Giving” to us and it is that which brings us together in this place as a church family. And although we will not sit around a table tonight and share a meal, we will gather at the foot of the cross and share in his salvation. We will thank God for his creation, for our families and our friends, but we will also thank him for sending his Son for the sake of our eternal lives. And we will thank Christ for the sacrifice that he made. We will praise and worship him for all that he has given and continues to give in our lives.

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving, but tonight, tonight is “God’s Giving” and we are so thankful for that.

Let’s pray.

In your name we pray. Amen.