



## Speechless!

By Pastor Jeff



On Christmas morning, both young and old alike are excited about the gifts under the tree! Now some of those gifts will become favorite possessions that we use and enjoy for years. However, occasionally a gift will be opened, examined and laid aside in a draw or closet never to be used. The giver meant well, but the gift just did not appeal to us or wasn't needed.

Whether it is a gift we initially love and use, or a gift that we put aside after Christmas morning, all physical gifts will lose their value, usefulness, and luster. All gifts will grow old and eventually useless, with the exception of God's great gift to us in Jesus.

The apostle Paul spoke about God's gift of Jesus with such enthusiasm in 2 Corinthians 9:15 with these words; **Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!** (ESV) About 25 years after Paul had received the gift of salvation in Jesus, he still spoke of it as "inexpressible". Paul was so taken in by God's gift of Jesus, he was speechless! No words could describe what Jesus meant to Paul!

Paul understood that Jesus and the salvation that He provides is a gift of infinite value, which goes on into eternity.

My Christmas wish for our church family is twofold, that we would both be speechless and speechful!

I wish that each of us would be taken in a new way with the reality of Jesus to the point that we are as Paul, speechless. That the Sunday services the next few weeks and our Christmas Eve service would cause us to stand in awe of the Lord Jesus.

But when it comes to those who need Jesus, I wish that we would be speechful. That we would be so taken in with Jesus and the salvation He has given us that we would tell others about Him. The special services this month are a great opportunity to invite others to church to learn about our Lord. You can be speechful by simply inviting others to church this month.

On a personal note, Lorie and I don't want to be speechless about all that you mean to us. We are so thankful for each of you, for the love you have shown to us and for this past year of joyful ministry. Thank you for making us a part of the Mountain View family, and for the honor of serving with you here. For these blessings we are speechless!

## Looking Ahead

- Sunday, Dec 14, 21 and 28 - Special Christmas focus in each service.
- Saturday, Dec 20 - Christmas Caroling at Fellowship Manor.
- Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve service, 7:00PM at the church building. You will not want to miss this time of scripture, song and the first person sermon, "Joseph's Story."