

## God's Gift To Us

by Mick Wells



A friend of mine recently told me about an enterprising fellow who was selling various antique bottles, cups and other vessels at a roadside flea market. Among his wares he had placed a few common, empty brown glass pancake syrup bottles – the kind shaped like a lady – the kind you could readily find in any dump. He asked 25 cents each for them, but no one showed any interest. After a while, the fellow had an idea -- he placed the pancake syrup bottles on a separate table, and posted a sign declaring "\$10 each". Strangely enough, curious shoppers began buying the bottles at the high price, figuring they must be something special!

Isn't that just the way some folks think of Christianity? Salvation of our souls is absolutely free to us since Jesus paid the ultimate price for our sins, but many people still aren't interested. Why?? Eternal life is a gift -- it doesn't cost a cent (Romans 6:23), but millions refuse or neglect to accept it. It's so simple! Yet, poor souls in this world pursue and get tangled up in every sort of mystical, shrouded false teaching, and contrived religion du jour -- apparently thinking, "If it's that complicated, there must be something to it!"

Thank the Lord, the simple message of the gospel of Jesus Christ is for all of us -- everyone -- all ages, abilities and backgrounds. And God intended that the gospel would be simple and clear. I think of how Corrie Ten Boom shared the plan of salvation with mentally handicapped children. The Lord blessed her efforts, as many of these children understood and received Christ.

No, Jesus doesn't require us to pursue seminary degrees before we can find Him. He doesn't ask us to decipher cryptic, secretive riddles entrusted to only a few select gurus. The gospel is for you and for me, and for us to understand and accept today.

The Apostle Paul reminded the believers at Corinth that he had not visited them "with eloquence or superior wisdom" in proclaiming the testimony about God, but said "I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified" (I Corinthians 2:1-2).

The message is still clear. The gift is still free. "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"