



Missions: Part 1

MISSIONS

Rev. Douglas J. Kortyna

MISSIONS

Week One: Theology of Mission



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WEEK ONE: THEOLOGY OF MISSION

- I believe theology of mission should grow out of the gospel and the gift that we receive in Jesus Christ.

Continued...



Kant
vs
Barclay



WEEK ONE: THEOLOGY OF MISSION

- Theology of mission sometimes results in just cutting checks to people without “anything in return.”

Continued...



Kant
vs
Barclay





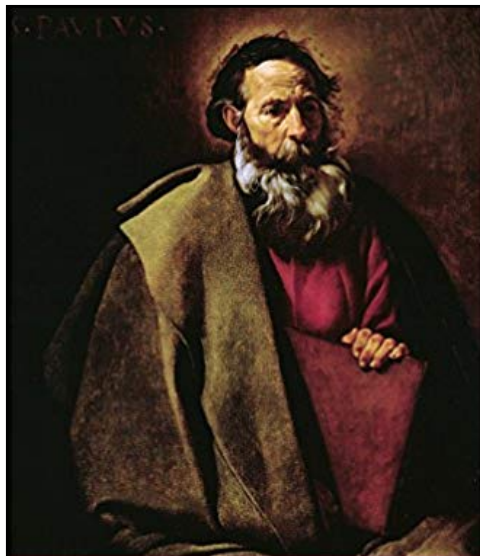
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WEEK ONE: THEOLOGY OF MISSION

- But does the idea of pure gift exist in Scripture? I believe the answer is “No.” This is a modern construct (Kant) that is read back into the bible.



Kant
vs
Barclay



Paul & the Gift
JOHN M. G. BARCLAY

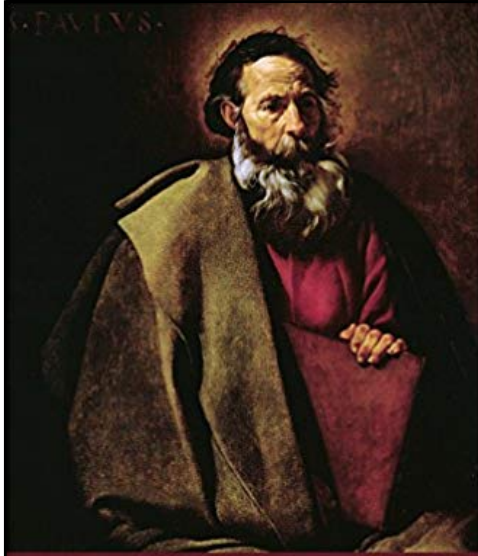
DEFINITION OF GIFTS IN ANTIQUITY

- Priority: The focus is on the timing of the gift. It's emphasis is on the person who initiates the gift giving. Examples: parents and children, Reformed views of election (Predestination), and those who teach “prevenient grace.”

Continued...



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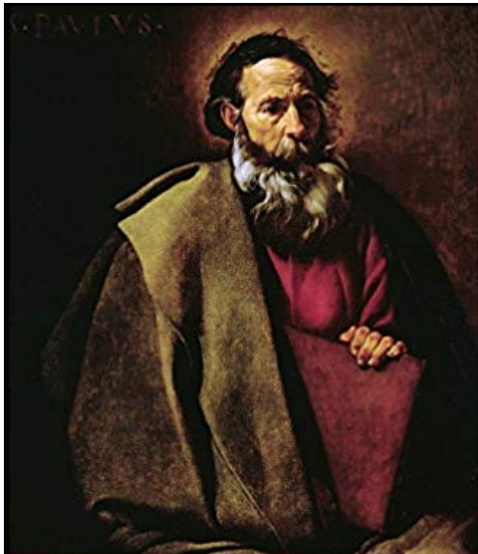


Paul & the Gift
JOHN M. G. BARCLAY

DEFINITION OF GIFTS IN ANTIQUITY

- Incongruity: Gift is given without regard to the worth of the recipient.

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Paul & the Gift
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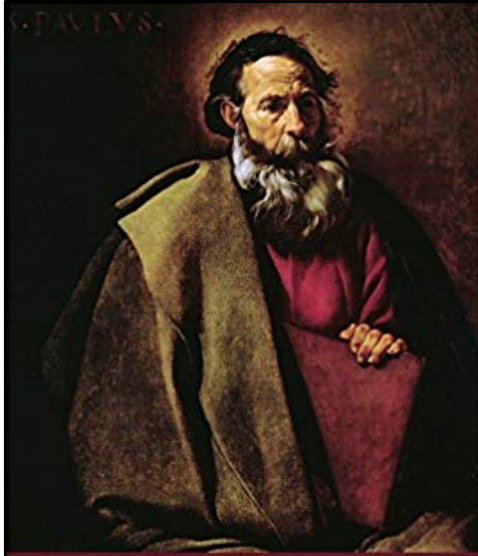
DEFINITION OF GIFTS IN ANTIQUITY

- Incongruity: Gift is given without regard to the worth of the recipient.
- Efficacy: The gift achieves what it was designed to do.

Continued...



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Paul & the Gift
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DEFINITION OF GIFTS IN ANTIQUITY

- Non-Circularity: A gift that is given that escapes reciprocity. I do not believe this is a biblical concept of gift giving.



VERTICAL GIFT GIVING

- We need to first start with the definition of “Vertical Gift Giving.”

Continued...



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VERTICAL GIFT GIVING

- I believe, as modern westerners, we presuppose the Bible teaches “non-reciprocity” with regards to responding to the gift of grace in Christ.

Continued...



VERTICAL GIFT GIVING

- Example: People will often say, “After you accept Christ, you can do whatever you want. It’s a pure gift with no-strings attached.” Except Paul states: “May we sin that grace may abound? May it never be! (Romans 6:1).



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TELOS OF GIFT GIVING

- Despite what people say, the ends (telos) always justifies the means. What is the telos of mission? God through our gifts building His kingdom.

Continued...

Τελος

TELOS OF GIFT GIVING

- We need to view mission through a heavenly lens. Part of the problem is we have an earthly view of mission!

Continued...

Τελος



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TELOS OF GIFT GIVING

- We need to get comfortable with how the church operates. In the words of Marva Dawn, what we do is a “royal waste of time” to those outside the church.



Τελος

GIFT GIVING IN THE OT

- God’s grace and gift are rooted in the Hebrew bible. They just don’t magically appear in the New Testament.

Continued...



THE LOVE of GOD

Divine Gift, Human Gratitude, and
Mutual Faithfulness in Judaism

Jon D. Levenson

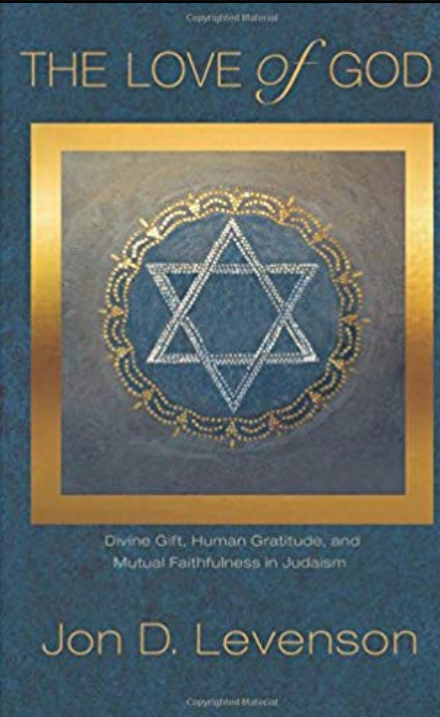


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GIFT GIVING IN THE OT

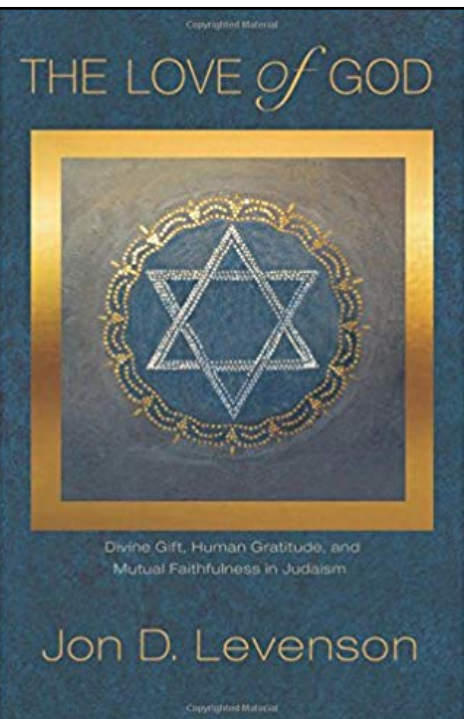
- God's grace and gift are rooted in the Hebrew bible. They just don't magically appear in the New Testament.
- Read Deuteronomy 6:1-25.

Continued...



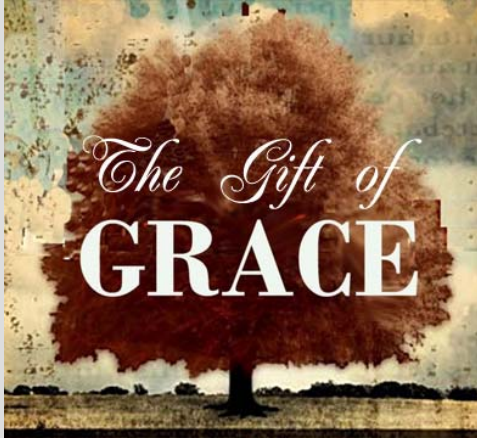
GIFT GIVING IN THE OT

- The giving of Torah is what could be called a sign-act. The sign is the saving event of God delivering His people. The act? Following Him through keeping the law and being daily reminded of Israel's covenant with God. The covenant is a means of grace (gift).





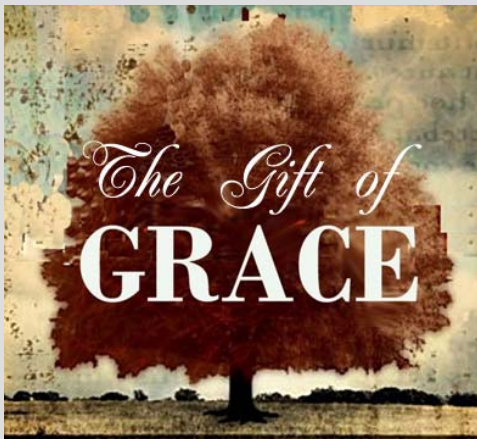
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GIFT GIVING IN THE NT

- Read Ephesians 2:1-10.

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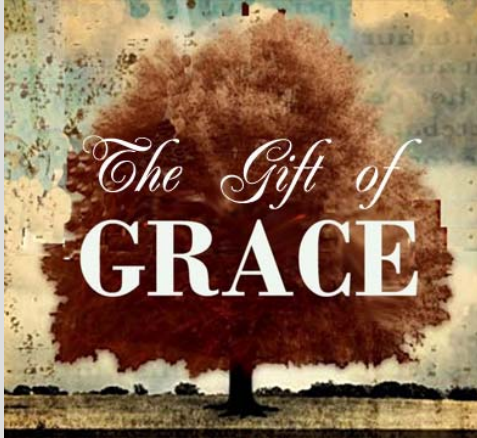
GIFT GIVING IN THE NT

- Read Ephesians 2:1-10.
- This text is all about the gift of God in Christ!

Continued...



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GIFT GIVING IN THE NT

- Notice this text touches on the gift as priority (God's preordained knowledge), incongruity (disregard for worth of recipient), it's efficacious (does something!), and it does not fit into the box of "pure gift." It expects a return!

CHRISTIAN PRACTICE

- Every week, we have a practice that enacts this sign-act or sign-seal of grace when we participate in communion.



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CHRISTIAN PRACTICE

- The sign-act or sign-seal of communion reminds us of the gift of God in Christ week after week. We respond with a life of gratitude and service to Christ for what he has done for us.



Continued...

CHRISTIAN PRACTICE

- All people in the church are conceived of as equals (Galatians 3:28-29). In many ways, all government projects, marketers, etc. are trying to imitate the gospel! But they cannot!





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Vertical Gift: The Gift of the Lord Jesus Christ

Horizontal Gifts

HORIZONTAL GIFT GIVING

- We must think about how the vertical gift of Christ influences our horizontal practices as Christians.

Continued...

Vertical Gift: The Gift of the Lord Jesus Christ

Horizontal Gifts

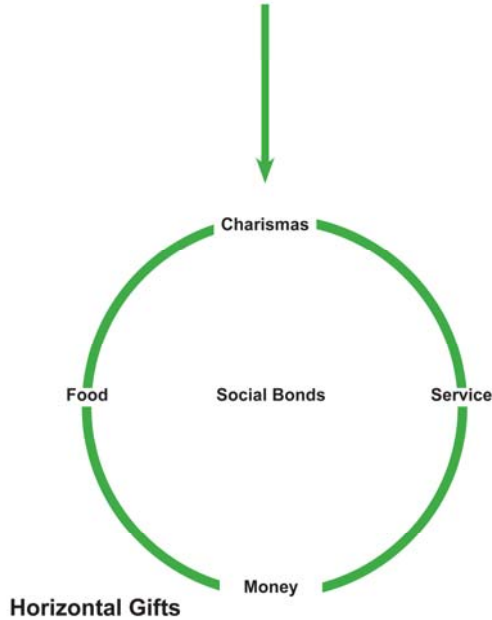
HORIZONTAL GIFT GIVING

- In many ways I am challenging how Christians have thought about mission in the past. I come from a wealthy, Mt. Lebanon EPC, where we more or less just cut checks to less fortunate people, never expecting a return.

Continued...

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Vertical Gift: The Gift of the Lord Jesus Christ



HORIZONTAL GIFT GIVING

- We need to learn to see gifts as that which brings us into social bonds with brothers and sisters in Christ. This means, I think, we build bonds with people. We need to cast away the idea of gifts “without strings attached.”

EXAMPLE: FOOD

- Text (Acts 2:42-47): Food creates social bonds. We could even say for early Christians, it was “sacramental.”



Continued...



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EXAMPLE: FOOD

- Missional friendship: Perhaps we could use food as a means to create social bonds whereby they open the door to share the gospel with others?



Continued...

EXAMPLE: FOOD

- Example: How often has somebody had us over for dinner and we responded by having them over? This demonstrates the reciprocity of gift giving and its power to create social bonds.



Continued...

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EXAMPLE: FOOD

- Example: Taking my friend Abdullah out for lunch and inviting him to Zoe's Baptism. I think his context, Saudi Arabia, understood the type of gift giving that is closer to the Bible.



EXAMPLE: MONEY

- Text: Matthew 19:16-30.



Continued...



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EXAMPLE: MONEY

- Text: Matthew 19:16-30.
- Eternal treasures are prioritized over earthly treasures.

Continued...



EXAMPLE: MONEY

- Text: Matthew 19:16-30.
- Eternal treasures are prioritized over earthly treasures.
- What if we envisioned our money as creating social bonds within the church family?



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EXAMPLE: SERVICE

- Read: Mark 10:35-45



Continued...

EXAMPLE: SERVICE

- How is power exercised in the local church?
Through service and gift giving to others.
However, this is stated within a culture that does not believe in altruism.



Continued...



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EXAMPLE: CHARISMAS

- The gifts, or charismas, that believers are given by the Holy Spirit (vertical gift) are not merited (12:1-11). They are graces given by the Lord.

Continued...

EXAMPLE: CHARISMAS

- What is the gift's purpose(12:12-31)? To create social bonds (horizontal) whereby the entire church is built up into one body.