



Your Ninja Gift from God

From the weekend message:

A NINJA loan is a slang term for a loan extended to a borrower with "no income, no job and no assets". The Bible regularly describes our sin as a debt we owe to God – an enormous debt we could never pay. Because of our desperate situation, God doesn't offer us a loan, but rather a gift.

Our Debt

[Q] [Read Romans 5:6-11](#), looking for the words Paul uses to describe us *before* salvation in this passage. Please list them.

[Q] What were we able to do to help pay our debt to God?

[Q] Why should we bother thinking about our desperate situation?

"The first step to real gospel joy is real gospel brokenness. We cannot get to real happiness in God until we get to real despair of our sin. "Til sin be bitter, Christ will not be sweet," [Puritan Pastor] Thomas Watson tells us."¹

God's Great Wealth

[Read Ephesians 2:4-7](#). [Q] How does Paul describe God's rich generosity and how did God use it?

[Q] If I am not ever-amazed by this costly, generous gift, why not?

- I don't see my sin as that serious.
- I don't see God as that holy.
- I get distracted and forget about it.
- Other _____

¹ Jared C. Wilson, thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/gospeldrivenchurch/2011/06/15/the-gospel-and-it-ness

Reflecting God's Generosity

[Q] Read [2 Corinthians 5:17-21](#), looking for the words or phrases Paul uses to describe those who are *in Christ*. Please list them.

Discuss (in pairs if your group is large):

We are Christ's ambassadors with the message of what God has done. What has God done in your life?

Who can you tell this week? _____

What's your story?

- I'm not sure I have a story worth telling.
- I need to take time to write out my story.
- I need to pray for an opportunity to tell my story.
- _____

Prayer

The Good News: The Son that God did not spare is priceless. The grace Jesus gives is free.

Jesus Is Your Righteousness (His Life)

The life of Jesus offers hope to the broken, to those who recognize their inability to keep God's law, and to those who are frustrated with their falling and failings. The gospel is the life of Jesus for sinners. His righteousness is our righteousness, and this gives us hope and confidence before God. Here the broken find encouragement, for in Christ we are righteous.

Jesus Is Your Forgiveness (His Death)

The death of Jesus offers hope to those who are overcome with guilt and conviction by offering cleansing and acceptance. Though we are sinners, God will not count our sins against us. He receives us because Jesus has died and put away our sins and reconciled us to God, who now, and forever, relates to us as a father relates to his son, and nothing can separate us from his love. Here the broken find hope, for in Christ we are cleansed.

Jesus Is Your Victory (His Resurrection)

The resurrection of Jesus offers courage and strength to persevere because his victory over sin and death is ours both in this life and in the one to come. The same spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us, sanctifies us, and empowers us to follow Christ and serve the mission of the church. And we know that the spirit who raised Jesus from the dead will raise us as well when Jesus returns. Here the broken find hope and courage, for in Christ we have power and victory to obey, and we will, in the end, be raised in his likeness.

Pastor Joe Thorn, *Note To Self* joethorn.net/note-to-self/