

The Immortal Life

The blessings of God

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We have come to recognize some very significant blessings in our walk with God in the recent pass. He has led us from a far way and we still have much further to go with Him and He is able to complete this journey with Him at an ideal pace. We have been freed from many of the falsehood of Rome. Not long ago He has helped us to know the true understanding of what the church is, and then He led us to know the truth about Him and His Son. In every step the ray of light brings us more and more to greater blessings. We do not know what blessing God has in store for us with respect to how He will bless us, but we know that He has something bigger each time; every step of the way.

But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. (*Prov 4:18*) *Amen!*

Having been led to understand who God is and who Jesus is and the relationship between them both, the effectiveness and impact of the Gospel of the love of God towards us by faith in the salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, has become more apparent to us. We have come to realize that God is able to impute or simply put, to put His righteousness in us; that we do not need to; in fact we cannot receive this righteousness by any of our attempts of righteous acts. We have come to see that the gospel is in fact much easier and attainable than we first understood it to be and this has increased our faith and love to God. The amazement of the possibility that we can receive the righteousness of God just like that has affected and infected the lives of many of us, just by thinking about it. Yes! There is power in the Gospel that will affect you even by just thinking about it.

The afterglow of this revelation is still to be seen in eyes and the attitudes of many of us, as we meet, talk and muse about it. But have we fully realized all the blessings which are connected to this great truth? I don't think we will ever (at least not in this life) exhaust the manifold ramifications of the blessings which are made possible through this one revelation of God and our Lord Jesus Christ. I think it will be an eternally ongoing revelation.

Now let us look at one of the many blessings we have received along with the righteousness of God. At this point as I write this message, my thoughts are flooded with many texts with which to start. How interesting it is, that when our minds are opened to certain truth it seems to jump out of every corner of the Bible. Take this one for example:

As righteousness tendeth to life: so he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death. (*Prov 11:19*)

Last week we looked at the fact that man is born with the seed of evil; we saw that no man was good on his own accord. It was clearly established that man left to his own inclinations would only do evil continually and he was condemned because of this seed in him. Here again we see the wise man Salomon reiterating the same thoughts; righteousness leads to life while evil leads to death. Let us read a few more texts and see

if you can pick up on this blessing which comes with the righteousness of God. Write these texts down and let's examine them one by one.

(Prov 12:28)

(Rom 5:21)

(John 6:33-35, 50, 51)

(John 6:54)

(John 6:56-58)

(John 3:15)

(John 11:25, 26)

In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death.
(Prov 12:28)

That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. *(Rom 5:21)*

For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. ... This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. *(John 6:33-35, 50, 51)*

Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. *(John 6:54)*

He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever. *(John 6:56-58)*

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. *(John 3:15)*

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? *(John 11:25, 26)*

What are the two things all these text have in common? You should by now be able see that along with righteousness comes, not just life but everlasting life. Jesus was, and still is offering immortality on the spot, freely.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *(John 3:16)*. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. *(Rom 6:23)*

I think I can safely say that the soul that comes to God through Jesus Christ receives immortality immediately. What else could Jesus meant when he said: whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? Today I am echoing this same question to us all. Do you believe this? We are told in Revelation 13:8 that the Lamb (Jesus) was slain from the foundation of the world. Did Jesus die

when the world was made? No! but he was reckoned dead by His Father's foreknowledge. As Jesus was reckoned dead from the foundation of the world, so are we reckoned to be immortal by His resurrection from the dead. That is why we are told that our names are written in the Book of Life in heaven.

Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven. (Luke 10:20)

This may come to you a surprise as it did to me while I am writing this sermon. Do you know that all the names of the redeemed were written in the book of life from the foundation of the world? Aha! Rev 17:8. reads as follows: "The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

Well, you might say, it did not say the redeemed's names are written there. But it did say "...they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world,". It is evident that there are some whose names were written in the book of life from the foundation of the world. And if this is not enough how about this; Ephesians 1:3,4: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." This is where some people have erred not understanding the foreknowledge of God. Please do not misunderstand me. I am not saying that God has from the foundation of the world chosen who He would like to be saved and then refused all others. There are too many verses in the Bible which should make it clear that this is not case and if you are having difficulty finding them, let me help you with a few.

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (2 Pet 3:9)

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom 5:8)

For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. (Rom 5:10)

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (John 3:17)

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:12, 13). And this should top it all off:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

The moment we come to God through Jesus and believe in Him, we receive His righteousness and His eternal; immortal life. Jesus said to Mary the sister of Lazarus: "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" **And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die..** We covered this in our previous study. Righteous brings life and Sin brings death. So anyone one who comes

to Jesus, though he were dead yet he is reckoned alive and he that lives believing in Him shall never die. From that moment God gives that spirit eternal or immortal life and he is reckoned to be so, even if he sleeps in death. But how could this be so? How can a man who is dead be reckoned to have eternal life; to be said of that he will never die?

- There is a difference between the spirit of man of that of the animals.
 - Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth? (*Eccl 3:21*)
- The spirit of man goes back to God who gave it while the spirit of the animal perishes.
 - Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. (*Eccl 12:7*)
- The spirit of man is to man as the Spirit of God is to God.
 - For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. (*1 Cor 2:11*)

Does God keep the spirit of man when he dies? The answer is clearly yes. And if that spirit while in the flesh received the righteousness of Jesus, then he also had received the everlasting life of Jesus and is reckoned to be alive in Jesus though he is not conscious but as it were asleep. If Jesus was reckoned dead from the foundation of the world and we were reckoned to be in him, what are we who have received His resurrected life then reckoned to be?

In the resurrected Christ there is only righteousness; there is no death but everlasting life. It is through him that we have received the eternal life. (For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.) It is His life and when we by faith accept him we partake of the eternal life; we eat of His flesh and drink of His blood. We have become extensions of Him and by Him we become extensions of His Father. In so doing we have become partakers of the divine nature and are now made this time to be a part of God's divine family. First we were made in their image; now we are made a part of them.

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. (*John 17:21*)
“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.” (*1 John 3:1*)

If Jesus was not raised dead with eternal life, then we do not have eternal life either; for it is His life we have received. Whatever He has, we have by faith. If Jesus was raised from the dead then He has eternal life. If He was not raised from the dead then we are indeed men most miserable.

This matter of the hope of everlasting life was an issue for some in the early church. In 1 Cor 15, the apostle Paul addressed the questions aptly.

In receiving the righteousness of Jesus Christ God has given the blessings of immortal life to us. For in the life of Jesus we have all the manifold blessings of God. We will through the ages forever living to find out more and more of these great blessings in Jesus.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him

before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. (Eph 1:3-6)