God’s Blessing – What Does It Take? – November 16, 2014

Galatians 3:6 – 14

**Introduction:** Do you know that it’s possible to be at complete peace with God and not basing your peace with Him on your performance at all? Do you know that you can be at complete peace with God, yet still be passionate about pursuing Him and pressing on in your spiritual growth and discipleship? God wants you to know that. He wants you to glorify Him. You do this by your gladness in Him because of His grace to you. That my friends is God’s blessing simply put. It is his grace and mercy given to you, not for what you do, but for who you are in Jesus Christ. This is what Paul wanted the church in Galatia to know and as we look at a portion of Galatians 3 we see that it is just as relevant to believers today as it was to those in the Galatian church.

1. **God’s Blessing Has Always Come Through Faith in Christ (vv. 6–9).** Galatians 3:6 takes us all the way back to Genesis, the first book in the Bible, and to the man Abraham. Paul quotes and refers to Genesis all through this passage. In verse 6, he uses the example of Abraham to tell us how God’s blessing is received and enjoyed.

**A.** **God’s Blessing Is a Central Theme of Scripture.**

* In the beginning, when God created the world He blessed it. That doesn’t just mean that He wished it or us well. When God blesses something, He empowers it to fulfill His purposes.
* Later, God promised Abraham a family that would outnumber the stars, a land to call his own, and a blessing to empower him for life.
* The story of the Bible becomes the progressive development of that promised blessing. It’s the theme that runs through the whole Book and is fulfilled in Christ.

**B.** **God’s Blessing Has Always Been Received by Faith.**

* Look at how many times the words believe or faith appear in verses 6–9.
* Abraham’s misdeeds and failures did not exclude him from God’s blessing, just as his good deeds did not earn him God’s blessing.
* God still works this way today with you and me. His blessing has always come through faith. Everything in our lives should be built upon the solid foundation of faith.

**2.** **God’s Blessing Can Only Come Through Faith in Christ (vv. 10–12).**

* Notice how clearly verse 10 makes this point. 10For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” (NIV)
* No one can obey the law perfectly. So receiving God’s blessing cannot possibly come by works, which lead to a curse.
* God’s blessing can only come by God’s grace through faith.

**A.** **This Truth Is Humbling.**

* 8For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—9not by works, so that no one can boast (Eph. 2:8–9).
* If we are justified by faith and not by works, no one can boast No one can look down on others.
* We’re all in need of the saving grace that only comes through faith in Christ.

**B.** **This Truth Is Liberating.**

* When you understand that the blessings of God’s grace come only through faith in Christ, the knowledge is humbling, but it is liberating as well: 13You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. (Gal. 5:13a NIV).

**3.** **God’s Blessing Richly Comes Through Faith in Christ (vv. 13–14).**

* But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.”
* 14He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

**A.** **Blessed with the Richness of Complete Redemption.**

* The word *redeem* means to set someone free. By paying a price for his freedom. As a result of what Christ has done for us, we are saved from the curse of judgment and receive the blessing of grace.

**B.** **Blessed with the Richness of His Promised Spirit.**

* When you receive Christ, you are not only redeemed from something, but you are also redeemed for something.
* You were forgiven so that you might be filled. The ultimate blessing is God living in you in grace.
* The promise of the Spirit means that you can practice the presence of Christ.

**Conclusion:** So it is for you my brothers and sisters. God has come to you in the midst of your mess and mistakes. He is announcing His arrival into your ordinary unspectacular life and inviting you to follow, to surrender, and to live in a different way. God is rescuing and redeeming the world, and you—unlikely you!—have somehow gotten in on it. The direction of your life has been forever altered. You now have a part in the future that God is bringing. Like Abraham, you have been blessed to carry blessing, and you are receiving and participating in the kingdom of God. Is God’s blessing, received through faith in Christ, the source of your strength? Is your heart softened, sweetened, and strengthened because you know that through faith in Christ you are blessed by God? When you know, that through your faith in Christ, God has given you these blessings of grace that you could never deserve, that is a life-changing understanding.

Grow in the grace and knowledge

Of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To him be the glory

Both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

2 Pet. 3:18