

## The Magnitude of God's Love, Part 2

The Kingdom and the Covenant, Session 2.11

### Introduction

- Gen 1:26, God created us in his image & likeness
- Gen 6:5-6, man's sin grieved God & filled his heart with pain
- Jn 3:16, God loved all of humanity so much that he gave his only eternal Son, who became the man Jesus, to die for our sin so we won't have to
- God's covenant with us is a "blood covenant"; equal legal status & common property
- God reconciled us to himself & adopted us
  - 1 Co 13:5, love keeps no record of wrongs; God is love (1 Jn 4:8)
- We need to repent – change the way we think – about our relationship with God & magnitude of his love for us

### Righteousness

- "justify" (Gk, v, *dikaioo*): justify, declare righteous
  - Ro 3:24, 28, <sup>24</sup> "[We] are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.... <sup>28</sup> For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law."
    - We receive God's grace through our faith in what?
  - Ro 5:1-2(a), <sup>1</sup> "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand."
    - According to verse 1, what do we have now because God justified us?
    - According to verse 2, what allowed us to gain access to God's grace?
    - Faith with perseverance activates what grace provides
  - Ro 8:29(a)-30, "For those God foreknew he also predestined.... And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified."
    - "foreknew" (Gk, v, *proginosko*): to know in advance
    - "predestined" (Gk, v, *proorizo*): to determine beforehand
      - What did God know about you that caused him to predestine you?
    - "called" (Gk, v, *kaleo*): (1) invite; (2) summon, authoritatively demand an appearance or response
    - "justified" (Gk, v, *dikaioo*): to declare righteous
    - "glorified" (Gk, v, *doxazo*): to positively acknowledge, recognize or esteem one's character, nature or attributes
  - What did we do to qualify for this, beside accept his offer?
- "righteousness" (Gk, n, *dikaiosyne*): quality of conforming to a moral or ethical standard
  - Ro 4:9(c), "... Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness."

- God treated Abraham's faith as if it were righteousness
- Did Abraham's character completely conform to God's standard?
- Does Abraham's experience suggest God also attributes our faith as righteousness?
- Ro 10:4, "Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes."
  - "end" (Gk, n, *telos*): goal; that which shows the purpose of a plan has been accomplished, so the plan itself is no longer necessary
- 2 Co 5:21, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."
  - According to this verse, whose righteousness is important?
- Do we earn righteousness by what we do?
- Does the exercise of our faith make us righteous?
- Father loves us so much he declares us righteous, as if we were
- Do we still have unrighteous thoughts? Say & do unrighteous things?
  - 1 Co 13:5, Love "keeps no record of wrongs"
  - 1 Jn 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

### Saints

- "saints" (Gk, adj, *hagios*): (1) holy; (2) a saint, holy one, person dedicated to God
  - Father loves us so much he erases the record of our unrighteousness & treats us as if we were holy!
- Eph 1:4-5, <sup>4</sup> "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will."
  - he "chose" us (Gk v, *eklegomai*): to choose or prefer especially for oneself
  - When did God choose us (verse 4)?
  - "holy" (Gk, adj, *hagios*)
  - "blameless" (Gk, adj, *amomos*): being free from guilt; above reproach
  - "predestined" (Gk, v, *proorizo*): to determine beforehand
  - "adopted" (Gk, n, *huiiothesia*): a legal proceeding that creates a parent-child relationship between persons not related by blood; with the adopted child being entitled to all privileges belonging to a natural child (including the right to inherit)
  - Based on God's foreknowledge, it was his pleasure & will to choose us for himself, to make us holy & blameless in his sight – because of what Jesus did in our behalf – then adopt us as his sons & daughters, giving us full rights within his kingdom
  - What did we do to deserve this?

## Seated in Heaven

- Eph 1:20-21, God <sup>20</sup> “raised [Jesus] from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.”
- Eph 2:6-7, <sup>6</sup> “And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.”

## General Comments

- God doesn't force his blessings or godly character on us; he doesn't violate our free will
  - Any passivity, indifference or laziness on our part is inappropriate!
  - Expecting him to do everything for us without our involvement is a childish attitude
  - He wants us to be mature sons & daughters (*huios*); who look, think & act like him, & actively participate in what he does
  - If we fail to embrace what God says about us, we'll be reluctant to approach him, to ask him for anything, to even consider that he might be involved in what we're doing
  - Ro 8:32, “ He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”
  - We don't earn or otherwise qualify for any of this; entirely result of God's love for us!
- This should motivate us to zealously express our love for him
  - by conforming our thinking to his; repenting
  - by viewing everything from his perspective
  - by eagerly developing character traits like his
  - by gladly embracing our kingdom responsibilities
  - by gratefully receiving the covenant blessings
  - by devoting ourselves to worshiping and serving him.
- This is true expression of covenant relationship

## I'm Blessed by God

God has blessed me by loving me, choosing me, forgiving me, saving me, justifying me and protecting me.<sup>1</sup> Nothing will separate me from his love.<sup>2</sup> He chose me to be holy and blameless in his sight and predestined me to be his child.<sup>3</sup> Now I'm a citizen of heaven, seated in the heavenly realms.<sup>4</sup>

Jesus blessed me by laying aside his divine nature to become like me so he could pay the price for my sins.<sup>5</sup> My sins are forgiven through his blood and I'm healed by his wounds.<sup>6</sup> I'll be blessed beyond imagination when he returns for me.<sup>7</sup>

God blessed me by placing his Holy Spirit within me as a guarantee of my inheritance.<sup>8</sup> The Holy Spirit teaches me all things and guides me into all truth.<sup>9</sup> He gives me abilities I can use to serve others and be effective in life.<sup>10</sup> He helps me develop godly character traits.<sup>11</sup> He even intercedes for me when I don't know how to pray.<sup>12</sup>

God blesses me by giving me peace to guard my heart and mind.<sup>13</sup> He lavishes his grace, wisdom and understanding on me.<sup>14</sup> He gives me every good and perfect gift, and sends his angels to serve me.<sup>15</sup>

God blesses me by enabling me to reign in life, crush Satan under my feet and be more than a conqueror.<sup>16</sup> He works everything together for my good.<sup>17</sup> He's keeping me strong to the end and blesses me in the heavenly realm with every spiritual blessing.<sup>18</sup>

God blesses me by giving me far more than I need to excel in every good work and making me rich in every way so I can be generous on every occasion.<sup>19</sup> He enables me to thrive in every situation.<sup>20</sup>

God blesses me by giving me everything I need for life and godliness.<sup>21</sup> He enables me to participate in his divine nature and escape the world's corruption.<sup>22</sup> He causes my tests to develop perseverance in me, making me mature and complete, so I'll receive the crown of life.<sup>23</sup> He's purifying me of everything that's not like him.<sup>24</sup>

### Scripture references:

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Jn 3:16; Eph 1:11; Rom 4:8; Eph 2:5, 8;<br>Rom 8:30; Jn 17:15 | 13. Jn 14:27; Php 4:7     |
| 2. Rom 8:35  | 14. Eph 1:7-8; Jas 1:5    |
| 3. Eph 1:4-5   | 15. Jas 1:17; Heb 1:14    |
| 4. Php 3:20; Eph 2:6   | 16. Rom 5:17; 16:20; 8:37 |
| 5. Php 2:6-8   | 17. Rom 8:28              |
| 6. Eph 1:7; Col 1:14; 1 Pet 2:24                                 | 18. 1 Co 1:8; Eph 1:3     |
| 7. Tit 2:13  | 19. 2 Co 9:8, 11          |
| 8. 1 Co 3:16; Eph 1:13   | 20. Php 4:11-13           |
| 9. Jn 14:26; 16:13   | 21. 2 Pet 1:3             |
| 10. 1 Co 12:1, 7   | 22. 2 Pet 1:4             |
| 11. Gal 5:22-23  | 23. Jas 1:3-4, 12         |
| 12. Rom 8:26   | 24. 1 Jn 1:9              |