

I. Please turn with me to Romans Chapter 5

- a. This morning we are going to continue the study which we started last week entitled – “I Am Blessed”
 - i. In **Ephesians 1:3**, the apostle Paul declared, “***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ***”
 - ii. The Bible tells us that, in Christ, God the Father has given us all the treasures, wealth, and riches in the heavenly places (**every spiritual blessing**)
 - iii. Therefore, because of this, we can say, “***We are blessed, I am blessed***”
- b. In spite of the condition of the economy, in spite of our position at work, in spite of our situation at home, we are blessed, so very blessed...
 - i. Now, if you recall, last week we began looking at some of the spiritual blessings we have received in Christ
 - ii. In **Romans Chapter 5**, the apostle Paul mentions “***eight spiritual blessings***” that belong to all those who have placed their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ
 - iii. And last week, we looked at the first “***four spiritual blessings***” mentioned by the apostle Paul:
- c. 1st – “Peace with God”
 - i. In **verse 1**, the apostle Paul declares, “***Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...***”
 - ii. The first spiritual blessing the apostle Paul tells us that we have received in Christ is “***Peace with God***”
 - iii. Prior to having peace with God, the Bible tells us that we were at *enmity* and *war* with God (**fighting a war which we would have never won**)
 - iv. However, through the Lord Jesus, we are now able to experience peace with God – Jesus Christ has caused the war to end...
 - v. And once you experience peace with God through Christ, you are then able to experience the peace of God in Christ (**only in that order**)
- d. 2nd – “Access into the Grace of God”
 - i. In **verse 2a**, the apostle Paul continues by declaring, “***through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand...***”
 - ii. The second spiritual blessing the apostle Paul tells us that we have received in Christ is “***Access into the Grace of God***”
 - iii. Through the Lord Jesus, we have been granted access into the unmerited, undeserved, and unearned favor of God (**Doors wide open**)
 - iv. Now, because we have been granted access into the grace of God, we must make sure that we continue to stand in the grace of God...

- e. 3rd – “The Ability to Rejoice in Hope of Eternity”
 - i. In verse 2b, the apostle Paul continues by declaring, “...and rejoice in hope of the glory of God”
 - ii. The third spiritual blessing the apostle Paul tells us that we have received in Christ is “*The Ability to Rejoice in Hope of Eternity*”
 - iii. One day, we will see the Lord Jesus Christ in all His glory, splendor, majesty, and beauty
 - iv. One day, we will be in His presence for all of eternity with all the loved ones and great saints who have gone before us (Mom!)
 - v. And this certainty, this hope, causes us to rejoice...
- f. 4th – “The Ability to Glory in Tribulations”
 - i. In verses 3-4, the apostle Paul continues by declaring, “*And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope*”
 - ii. The fourth spiritual blessing the apostle Paul tells us that we have received in Christ is “*The Ability to Glory in Tribulations*”
 - iii. As believers, we are able to glory in tribulations because we understand that God is working out His plans and purposes through the tribulations
 - iv. God uses the times of trials, sufferings, difficulties, and pain to form Christian character within our lives – “*Mold us into the image of His Son*”
 - v. Therefore, if you are going through a difficult time right now, take courage, God is going to use it for the good...
- g. Let’s continue our study and look at the final “four spiritual blessings” mentioned by the apostle Paul

II. 5th – “The Ability to Experience the Love of God”

- a. In verse 5a, the apostle Paul continues by declaring, “Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts...”
 - i. The fifth spiritual blessing the apostle Paul tells us that we have received in Christ is “*The Ability to Experience the Love of God*”
 - ii. Through His Spirit, God has poured out His Divine love within our hearts – He has filled us, surrounded us, and blessed us with His love
 - iii. For the first time, we are able to personally experience the love of God – the amazing, transcendent love of God
 - iv. What a blessing! Nothing in this world can compare with the joy of personally experiencing the love of God...
- b. And this morning, I want to briefly share with you “four characteristics” of this Divine love which has been poured out into our hearts:
- c. First, God’s Love is “Everlasting”

- i. **Jeremiah 31:3** declares, *“The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: ‘Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with loving-kindness I have drawn you.’”*
 - ii. God’s Love for us is Everlasting – it has never had a beginning nor will it ever have an ending
 - iii. Think about this for a moment, there has never been nor will there ever be a time when God does not love you...
 - iv. His love towards you is infinite, limitless, and measureless: Its reach stretches beyond the heavens, its depth is greater than the oceans, its height surpasses the mountains, and its width exceeds the universe
- d. **Secondly, God’s Love is “Unfailing”**
 - i. **Romans 8:35, 38-39** declares, *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?...for I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”*
 - ii. God’s Love for us is Unfailing – we will never be separated, disconnected, detached, or estranged from the love of God
 - iii. God’s love will never fail you, it will never let you down, it will never disappoint you, it will never be taken away from you, it will never leave you (**My mom’s love was temporarily taken away from me, but not God’s**)
 - iv. As a believer, there will never be a time when you do not sense, experience, or have access to the love of God
- e. **Thirdly, God’s Love “Motivates us to Love Others”**
 - i. **1 John 4:11** declares, *“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another”*
 - ii. God’s Love is the ultimate motivation to love others – If God can love me, naturally, I can love others
 - iii. The love of God compels and motivates me to love my fellow men – not out of duty, but out of desire
 - iv. The same Divine love that has been poured into our hearts must be poured out upon others (**God wants to love others through you**)
- f. **Fourthly, God’s Love is “Manifested in Christ”**
 - i. **John 3:16** declares, *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”*
 - ii. God’s Love is manifested in Christ – by sending His Son to the Cross, God manifested His great love for the world
 - iii. Mankind can never doubt the love of God because it was demonstrated on a Roman Cross 2,000 years ago in the city of Jerusalem
- g. **And this morning, I want to tell you this, “God loves you, He loves you so much”**

- i. If you have never experienced the love of God, this morning, I would encourage you to open your heart to Jesus and allow Him to pour His love into your heart
- ii. The last words I told my Mom before she died was, “*I love you, I love you*” - all that mattered to me was that she knew that I loved her...
- h. *And this morning, before you leave, God wants you to know that “He loves you, He loves you so much” – and you can experience His love in Christ...*

III. 6th – “The Gift of the Holy Spirit”

- a. *In vs. 5b, the apostle Paul continues by declaring, “...because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us”*
 - i. The sixth spiritual blessing the apostle Paul tells us that we have received in Christ is “*The Gift of the Holy Spirit*”
 - ii. The moment we place our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus, the Holy Spirit is given to us and He comes and dwells within us
 - iii. **1 Corinthians 3:16** declares, “*Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*”
- b. *After conversion, God pours out His Spirit into our lives to enable us and empower us to live the Christian life*
 - i. In essence, the Spirit of God lives the Christian life through us...
 - ii. You see, without Him, we would never make it or last, however, through Him, we are able to live the Christian life
 - iii. Therefore, make sure you are always depending and relying on the Holy Spirit – Don’t try to do it on your own strength (*you will fail...*)
- c. *In Zechariah 4:6, the Lord declared to Zerubbabel, “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts”*
 - i. God wanted Zerubbabel to understand that the work he was called to accomplish had to be accomplished by the power of the Spirit
 - ii. In the same way, God wants us to understand, everything He has called us to accomplish must be accomplished by the power of the Spirit
 - iii. Listen, you cannot accomplish anything meaningful in your Christian walk without the power of the Holy Spirit (*You must Depend/Rely on Him*)

IV. 7th – “Deliverance from the Wrath of God”

- a. *In verse 9, the apostle Paul continues by declaring, “Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”*
 - i. The seventh spiritual blessing the apostle Paul tells us that we have received in Christ is “*Deliverance from the Wrath of God*”
 - ii. Through the Lord Jesus, we have been delivered from the wrath of God...
 - iii. On the Cross, Jesus endured the wrath of God on our behalf – He received the penalty, judgment, and consequence of our sins

- b. Isaiah tells us that the Messiah was “wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him...”
 - i. Listen, the Lord Jesus was crushed, shattered, wounded, maimed, injured, smashed, crippled, wrecked, demolished, fractured, handicapped, disabled, and ultimately, killed, in order to deliver us from the wrath of God
- c. You see, we all have sinned and deserve judgment (wrath), yet the good news is that through Jesus Christ we can be delivered from that judgment (wrath)
 - i. In Christ, we find salvation, in Christ, we find forgiveness, in Christ, we find deliverance, in Christ, we find safety – Amen

V. 8th – “Reconciliation with God”

- a. In verse 10, the apostle Paul continues by declaring, “For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”
 - i. The eighth spiritual blessing the apostle Paul tells us that we have received in Christ is “**Reconciliation with God**”
 - ii. Through the Lord Jesus, our relationship with God has been fully restored – we now have access into the presence of God...
- b. Before this, we were separated from God, cut-off from His presence, kept back from enjoying fellowship with the Father
 - i. By nature, mankind is separated from God – Isaiah the prophet tells us that are our iniquities have “**separated us from God**” cf. **Isaiah 59:2**
 - ii. This separation we see illustrated in the Old Testament by the veil in the Tabernacle and the Temple (**the people were kept from God’s presence**)
 - iii. But, the Bible tells us that when the Jesus died on the cross the veil of the Temple was torn in two – the veil was removed...
- c. And now, through Jesus Christ, we have been reconciled to God, granted access into the presence of God – “The Door is wide open”
 - i. **Hebrews 4:16** declares, “**Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need**”
 - ii. The Heavenly Father is waiting with arms wide open – nothing on God’s side is preventing us from entering into His presence...
 - iii. However, many times, what prevents us from entering into God’s presence is veils that we have within our hearts (*lust, pride, greed, anger, hate, bitterness, etc.*)
- d. And this morning, God is asking every one of us to remove any veil, or any obstacle, that is keeping us from His presence (*holding us back...*)
 - i. This morning, won’t you allow Jesus to remove the veil? This morning, won’t you allow Jesus to see you free? I pray that you will...

- VI. **Therefore, you can see why in Christ I can confidently say, “I Am Blessed”**
- a. Jesus has given me everything and anything I could possibly need or desire in this lifetime and the lifetime to come – “He has given me Himself...”