

HOW TO ENJOY SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS

Follow Christ

Třebíč, 1st May 2022

Eph 1:3 Εὐλογητὸς ὁ θεὸς καὶ πατὴρ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ χριστοῦ, ὁ εὐλογήσας ἡμᾶς ἐν πάσῃ εὐλογίᾳ πνευματικῇ ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανίοις ἐν χριστῷ

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places

Hebrews 12:15 ἐπισκοποῦντες μή τις ὑστερῶν ἀπὸ τῆς χάριτος τοῦ θεοῦ, μή τις ῥίζα πικρίας ἄνω φύουσα ἐνοχλῆ καὶ δι' αὐτῆς μιανθῶσιν πολλοί, ¹⁶ μή τις πόρνος ἢ βέβηλος ὡς Ἡσαῦ, ὃς ἀντὶ βρώσεως μιᾶς ἀπέδετο τὰ πρωτοτόκια ἑαυτοῦ

Hebrews 12:15-16 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; ¹⁶ that no one is sexually immoral or **unholy like Esau**, who sold his birthright for a single meal.

OUTLINE

0. INTRODUCTION

- 0.1. TRINITARIAN BLESSINGS
- 0.2. BLESSING/PRAISING GOD

1. NEW TESTAMENT BLESSING

- 1.1. OT BLESSING
- 1.2. NT BLESSING

2. THE HEAVENLY PLACES

- 2.1. WHERE IS HEAVEN?
- 2.2. THE REAL MEANING OF FACTS

3. IN CHRIST

- 3.1. PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP
- 3.2. SITTING WITH CHRIST
- 3.3. THE HOLY SPIRIT

4. TO REMEMBER**0. INTRODUCTION**

[CHAMBERS] Being saved and seeing Jesus are not the same thing. Many are partakers of God's grace who have never seen Jesus. When once **you have seen Jesus**, you can never be the same, other things do not appeal as they used to do: Always **distinguish** between what you see Jesus to be, and **what He has done for you**. If you only know what He has done for you, you have not a big enough God; but if you have had a vision of Jesus as He is, experiences can come and go, you will endure, "as seeing Him Who is invisible." The man blind from his birth did not know Who Jesus was until He appeared and revealed Himself to him. Jesus appears to those for whom he has done something; but we cannot dictate when He will come. Suddenly at any turn He may come—"Now I see Him!" (*My Utmost for His Highest*, April, 9th)

0.1. TRINITARIAN BLESSINGS

- [GUNDRY] "Blessings planned by God the Father, accomplished by his beloved Son, and applied by the Holy Spirit."
- [LLOYD-JONES *Ephesians*] ...blessings of the Holy Spirit that come about because the Holy Spirit dwells within us. Our bodies are 'the temple of the Holy Ghost' who dwells in us (1Cor 6:19).

0.2. BLESSING/PRAISING GOD

- Begin with *doxology*! → **Ps 100:4** **Enter his gates with thanksgiving**, and his courts **with praise!** Give thanks to him; bless his name

- [CALVIN *Sermons on Ephesians*, Sermon 1] And surely without that mediator we are entirely shut out from him, and the majesty of God is bound to make the hairs of our head stand on end.

1. NEW TESTAMENT BLESSING

1.1. OT BLESSING

- material
- **Dt 28:3-10** Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. ⁴ Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. ⁵ Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. ⁶ Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out. ⁷ "The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. ⁸ The LORD will command the blessing on you in your barns and in all that you undertake. And he will bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ⁹ The LORD will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in his ways. ¹⁰ And all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you. []

1.2. NT BLESSING

- common blessings → **Mt 5:45** ...he [God] makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust
- spiritual → "born again;" "Paracletos;"
 - **John 10:10** I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
 - **John 16:33** In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.
- Gal 5 → love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, humility, and selfcontrol
- **Luke 18:28-30** And Peter said, "See, we have left our homes and followed you." ²⁹ And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, ³⁰ who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life."
- **1Cor 7:29-31** This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, ³⁰ and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, ³¹ and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.
- **Rom 8:28** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose
- **Rom 8:37** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
- Do we really want it? (Jacob ↔ Esau – Heb 12)

2. THE HEAVENLY PLACES

- [GUNDRY] "So just as despite our still living on earth God looks on us as crucified, buried, and resurrected with Christ by virtue of our being in Christ (see, for example, Romans 6:4–6; Galatians 2:20)..."

[F.F.BRUCE] the sphere to which the risen Christ has been exalted, where he sits enthroned at God's right hand (1:20), where those who have died and risen with Christ sit along with him (2:6), where principalities and powers see the many-hued wisdom of God exhibited through the church (3:10), and where spiritual forces of wickedness must be resisted and vanquished by believers with the panoply of God (6:12)

2.1. WHERE IS HEAVEN?

- "Our Father, which art in heaven"
- Approaching the throne of grace (Heb)
- Your life is hidden in God (Col 3)
- **Col 1:13** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, (ὃς ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς ἐκ τῆς ἐξουσίας τοῦ σκοτους, καὶ μετέστησεν εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ υἱοῦ τῆς ἀγάπης αὐτοῦ)

2.2. THE REAL MEANING OF FACTS

- **Revelation 2:9** 'I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich)...
- **Luke 12:21** So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.

[LLOYD-JONES *Ephesians*] As for the Christian church, in a sense she has nothing to do with the world's problems, and must not spend too much time on them. The church's primary task is to present the spiritual outlook and standpoint. She sees the cause of all troubles in an entirely different way. The worldly view sees the cause of war as a matter of the 'balance of power' as between nations and in terms of how to deal with this most effectively. That is right as far as it goes; but that is not the fundamental problem which, as Paul tells us in the last chapter of this Epistle, is that 'We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places'

3. IN CHRIST

3.1. PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP

- identification with Jesus in love (Gal 5:6)
- **2Cor 5:14-15** For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.
- **Gal 2:20** It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not nullify the grace of God, for if justification were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

3.2. SITTING WITH CHRIST

- [NEE] Christianity does not begin with walking; it begins with sitting.
- **Eph 2:5-6** made us alive together with Christ- by grace you have been saved- ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
- **Psalm 110:1-2** The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."
² The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies!

3.3. THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **John 14:23** "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

3.3.1. FAITH

- Paul → troubles (**2Cor 12:10** ...For when I am weak, then I am strong)
- **2Cor 4:7-11** But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. ¹¹ For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

3.3.2. HOPE

- **Romans 5:3-5** More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us

3.3.3. LOVE

- **Phil 3:7-11** But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith- ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

4. TO REMEMBER

- Make sure you desire the spiritual blessing, not just sth. pleasant.
- Blessings have to be judged from the heavenly point of view.
- Enabling to enjoy the spiritual blessings is the work of the Holy Spirit.