***God’s Bountiful Blessings***

*A Brief Commentary*

By

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 *Colossians 1:16* ***For by him were all things created****, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.*

*Genesis 9:3 Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things*.

Every year at Thanksgiving, and many other holidays we partake **of all** **the** **bountifulness this country has to offer.**  We eat more than we should, and enjoy many blessings unknown elsewhere.

We are blessed to live in the **wealthiest country** on earth, and we have **much more** than we **need**. We lavish upon ourselves food in excess, **and many worldly goods that we would probably be better** **off without**. Seventy five percent of the worlds energy is used by our country alone.

But here I would like to speak about the bountifulness with which God showers us, and with which we **should lavish ourselves. Yet these bounties are often overlooked.**

 *Colossians 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were* ***created by him, and for him:***

Yet He gives to us liberally, and really derives no benefit from it, other than the pleasure He finds in us. **He does it all for us, for our benefit.**

We are acquainted with: *1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*

Often when we think of this verse, we think of all these things in a physical manner, (something we can see or touch), but we seldom read the next verse**:**

*Verse -10* ***But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit****: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*

If they are **revealed by His Spirit** should we not be looking for Spiritual things?

Now God has given us many physical things also, *Genesis 9:3* ***Every moving thing that liveth******shall be meat for you****; even as the green herb have I given you all things.*

This is perhaps one reason why some "Animal Rights" people reject God.

We have already mentioned the bounty of food God has given us which we partake of not only on Thanksgiving day, but many other days as well.

**Every day should be Thanksgiving day!**  We should be constantly giving thanks to God for all he gives to us. **We take so much for granted,** for without God’s continual grace we would all soon die.

Yet **greater** than those **physical** bounties are the **Spiritual Bounties**.

In many new versions of the Bible, in the Beatitudes they replace Blessed with Happy. Now certainly one who is blessed is happy.

BUT happiness cannot come near to explaining blessings given **in Christ**.

Arthur Pink said “these blessings are based on **God's estimate of the value of Christ’s sacrifice of himself.”**

And we know the value of the Sacrifice of Our Lord has no bounds.

**What are some of our Spiritual Blessings?**

Before salvation we were worthless sinners. but GOD saw us through **Christ's righteousness**, when He saved us, and **He** made us worth much.

He took away our sin and **Imputed Christ's righteousness to us,** and made us **part of His family**.

 *Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath* ***blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ****:*

Note: all Spiritual blessings are **in Christ**.

*Romans 3:24* ***Being justified*** *freely by his grace through the redemption that is* ***in Christ Jesus:***

Grace and redemption are IN CHRIST There is no salvation outside of Christ.

*Romans 8:1,2 There is therefore now* ***no condemnation*** *to them which are* ***in Christ Jesus****, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life* ***in Christ Jesus*** *hath made me free from the law of sin and death*.

If you are **in Christ**, you are **free from death**, no longer condemned*.*

What do we mean **"In Christ Jesus?"** Born again, we have repented of our sins, turned from our sin to Christ, asked his forgiveness, and as a result Christ has made us a **member** of the **family of God***.*

*Romans 8:38,39 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the* ***love of God****, which is* ***in Christ Jesus*** *our Lord.*

What was left out? Nothing. Once we are saved (in Christ Jesus) there is nothing that can separate us from God’s love. God sees us **Only IN CHRIST:**

*Romans 12:5: So we, being many, are one body* ***in Christ****, and every one members one of another.*

One body! One family. If you are saved, you and I are part of the same family, of whom Christ is head.

*1 Corinthians 3:1: And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes* ***in Christ.***

These Corinthians hadn't grown much Spiritually yet, but were saved people IN CHRIST.

*1 Corinthians 15:22: For as in Adam all die, even so* ***in Chris****t shall all be made alive.*

Because we inherited Adam's sin, we are subject to death, and condemned to death, and this body will die. But If we are saved, born again, we are given eternal life. Our soul shall live and he will give us a new and glorified body.

*2 Corinthians 5:17: Therefore if any man be* ***in Christ****, he is a* ***new creature****: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

We sing a song: “Turn your eyes upon Jesus” Chorus...

“Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face; And the things of earth will grow strangely dim **In the light of His glory and grace.”**

*Ephesians 2:6:* ***And hath raised us up together****, and* ***made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ******Jesus:***

Only those **in Christ** will enter heaven.

*Ephesians 2:10: For we are his workmanship, created* ***in Christ Jesus*** *unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

Since Christ made us new creatures, we should be willing to walk in obedience to Him.

*1 Thessalonians 4:16: For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead* ***in Christ*** *shall rise first.*

First the saved people, who have already died, then we which are still alive at Christ's return shall rise.

*2 Timothy 1:1: Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the* ***promise of life*** *which is* ***in Christ Jesus,***

*2 Timothy 1:9**Who hath* ***saved us, and called us with an holy calling****, not according to our works, but according to his own* ***purpose and grace****, which was given us* ***in Christ Jesus*** *before the world began.*

Christ in God purposed to save us even before He created the world:

*2 Timothy 1:13: Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in* ***faith and love*** *which is* ***in Christ Jesus.***

Our very faith and love come from Christ:

*2 Timothy 2:1: Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the* ***grace*** *that is* ***in Christ Jesus.***

Grace is definitely a blessing, without God’s grace we would all be lost, for none of us are worthy of His great salvation***.***

*2 Timothy 2:10: Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the* ***salvation*** *which is* ***in Christ Jesus*** *with* ***eternal glory****.*

When we are witnessing for Christ we don't know whether the one we witness to will be saved or not, but we know some will, for God has promised a harvest.

*2 Timothy 3:15: And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is* ***in Christ Jesus.***

*Philemon 1:6: That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you* ***in Christ Jesus***.

As we acknowledge that anything that is good in us is from Christ, then our faith increases.

There are many more references to our being **IN CHRIST.**

This is so important because that is the only way God the Father can look upon us without destroying us.

Any other way we are sin, and God in His Holiness cannot look upon sin. When we finally get to Heaven, There will be no sin there, and there will no longer be any record of our sin. We will be made

completely Holy, completely without sin, **We will have no desire to sin.**

Can you imagine yourself **HOLY?**

Christ is King of Kings, & Lord of Lords. And we are in **the King's family.**

Let's look at some more of those Spiritual blessings.

**God's Grace**:

We read of the richness of His grace in Ephesians 1:7: *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*

And the **exceeding** riches **of His grace**. Ephesians 2:7: *That in the ages to come he might shew the* ***exceeding riches of his grace*** *in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

And the **Abundance of Grace.** Romans 5:15:  *But not as the offense, so also is the free gift. For if through the offense of one many be dead, much more* ***the grace of God, and the gift******by grace,*** *which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath* ***abounded*** *unto many.*

And verse 17: ***For if by one man's offense******death reigned*** *by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the* ***gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ***

Another of the Spiritual blessing is **God's love:**

God's love was placed on us even while we were yet sinners. He showered us with His love while we were yet **unlovely,** then brought us to our knees in **repentance,** and gave us the gift of **salvation.**

In Jeremiah 31:3 we see that He loved His people with an **everlasting love**. That love was made **manifest** in Galatians 4:4,5 *But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a* *woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the* ***adoption of sons****.*

That love came to our hearts when we were saved**:**

*Ephesians 2:4,5 But God,* ***who is rich in mercy****, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath* ***quickened us*** *together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*

God brought about the gift of salvation to us who were lost sinners,

an event so remarkable that even the prophets and the angels were amazed by it**:**

*1 Peter1:10-12* ***Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently,*** *who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things* ***the angels******desire to look into****.*

*Ephesians 1:8,9 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in* ***himself.***

Certainly not least among His bounties is the **gift of faith**.

Salvation does not actually become ours **until we believe in it.** **Believe in Christ, and trust Him as our personal saviour.**

But we cannot see, nor can we believe until that sight, and light are divinely communicated to us.

*Ephesians 2:8,9 For by grace are ye saved through* ***faith; and that*** *not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man* *should boast.*

What is the gift of God in these verses? Definitely salvation is a gift of God. BUT that is not the Gift referred to here. **Here it is the Gift of Faith**. Since Grace is unmerited favor, it would not be necessary to add "not of yourselves." But The Holy Spirit is pointing out that the very **faith** with which we believe unto salvation, is given of God.

*Ephesians 1:19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to* ***us‑ward*** *who* ***believe, according to the working of his mighty power,***

Also, **repentance** is a gift of our **great wonderful God:** He gives us the **privilege** to repent unto salvation and the **ability** to repent.

*Acts 11:18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles* ***granted repentance unto life*.**

*2 Timothy 2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them* ***repentance to the acknowledging of the truth*;**

Notice they OPPOSE themselves. They have already become sorry for their sins, now opposing themselves they see their sin as God sees it.

Being a sorry sinner **is not repentance**. We must turn **from that sin UNTO GOD**. Only through God given repentance can we do this.

BOUNTIFUL blessings! Blessings unsaved cannot understand, because they are Holy blessings reserved ONLY for those who are part of His family.

*Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint‑heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

**Praise God for His unspeakable blessings.**