

Sermon in Ephesians

Jesus Christ, Our Perfect Sacrifice

Introduction

- I. Paul begins the letter to the Ephesians by presenting a list of spiritual blessings we, as Christians, receive from God. In verse three, Paul says that we have been blessed with **every** spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.
 - A. God did not just give us **some** spiritual blessings.
 - B. God did not just give us **most** spiritual blessings.
 - C. We were given **every** spiritual blessing.
 1. Try counting the spiritual blessings listed in the book of Ephesians; then name one spiritual blessing that we lack.
 2. By giving us **every** spiritual blessing, what does this say about God and what does this say about our responsibility to God?
- II. Rom. 6:1 “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?”

Discussion

- I. Our salvation did not come cheap.
 - A. Remember:
 1. Eph. 1:7 Redemption came through the blood of Christ.
 2. Eph. 2:13 We were brought near by the blood of Christ.
 3. Eph. 2:16 God reconciled us to Himself through the Cross (His blood).
 4. Eph. 5:2 Christ gave Himself as an offering and a sacrifice.
 5. The sacrifice of Jesus was:
 - a. Unblemished
 - i. 1 Pet. 1:19 “but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb **without blemish** and without spot.”
 - ii. Heb. 9:14 “how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself **without spot** to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”
 - b. Voluntarily given
 - i. Jesus gave His life; under the Mosaic law, animal life **was** taken.
 - ii. John 10:18 “No one **takes** it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

c. Complete

- i. Heb. 9:28 “so Christ was offered **once** to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”
- ii. Heb. 10:10-12 “By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all...But this Man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God.”

d. Adequate to meet the demands of Divine justice

- i. John 1:29 “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God **who takes away the sin of the world!**”
- ii. Isa. 53:10,11 “Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put *Him* to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see *His* seed, He shall prolong *His* days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. 11 He shall see the labor of His soul, *and* be **satisfied**. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.”

e. Pleasing to God

- i. Heb. 10:12 “But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, **sat down at the right hand of God,**”
- ii. Eph. 5:2 “And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

B. Salvation cost heaven more than humanity can fathom.

II. Because of the spiritual blessings and the greatness of Christ’s sacrifice, we must walk before God in a worthy manner.

A. Walking with God is the key to life.

1. Genesis 5:24 “And **Enoch walked with God**; and he was not, for God took him.”
2. Genesis 6:9 “This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. **Noah walked with God.**”
3. Because Enoch and Noah walked with God, Enoch did not die and Noah did not perish in the flood.

B. Paul explains how we are to walk.

1. Eph. 2:10 Walk in good works.
2. Eph. 4:1 “walk worthy of the calling with which you were called...”
3. Eph. 5:2 “walk in love.”
4. Eph. 5:8 “Walk as children of light.”
5. Eph. 5:15 “walk circumspectly.”

C. Not all walking is acceptable:

1. Eph. 4:17 “you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind.”

2. Prov. 4:14 “Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil.”

III. When we understand the greatness of our spiritual blessings, we will put on the whole armor of God, because we will want to stand against the deceptions of Satan.

- A. Eph. 6:14 Truth
- B. Eph. 6:14 Righteousness
- C. Eph. 6:15 Gospel of Peace
- D. Eph. 6:16 Faith
- E. Eph. 6:17 Salvation
- F. Eph. 6:17 Word of God
- G. Eph. 6:18 Incessant prayer (continual communication with God)
- H. What part of God’s armor can we afford to ignore?

IV. Having every spiritual blessing ought to compel us to be “filled with all the fullness of God.” (Eph. 3:19)

- A. “Filled unto all the **fullness of God**” is a perfect participation in all of God’s gifts and a complete blending of our lives with His characteristics.
- B. When the Christian is filled with the fullness of God, he is provided God’s help, comfort, and strength.
- C. The Christian becomes the recipient of God’s great and precious promises, and he partakes of the Divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4).
- D. The full characteristics of holiness become part of the Christian’s nature: mercy, peace, longsuffering, goodness, meekness, gentleness, truth, holiness, justice, patience, etc. (Matt. 5:48).
- E. The obvious wish of Paul’s prayer is that Christians become more and more like the Lord whom they serve.

(Section IV was taken from Caldwell’s commentary on Ephesians, page 148.)

V. The spiritual provisions ought to remind us that our place, our realm, is in the “heavenly places.”

- A. The “heavenly places” are the realm of spiritual things.
 - 1. The term refers to the sphere in which non-physical affairs are operating, rather than those which are purely material or worldly.
 - 2. **The ‘heavenlies’ is a realm of reality that reaches beyond that which is earthly.**
 - 3. In that realm, Christ maintains the position of supreme authority, and Christians reign with him (Matt. 28:18-20; Rev. 5:9-10).
 - 4. Christ and Christians conduct constant warfare in this realm against Satan and the principalities and powers that seek to bring them into subjection to evil (Eph. 6:10-20).

(Section V was taken from Caldwell’s commentary on Ephesians, page 15.)

B. It is in the heavenlies that:

1. Eph. 1:3 Our spiritual blessings reside.
2. Eph. 1:20 Christ sits at the right hand of God.
3. Eph. 2:6 We sit with Christ.
4. Eph. 3:10 The church makes known the manifold wisdom of God to principalities and powers.
5. Eph. 6:12 We wrestle:
 - a. against principalities,
 - b. against powers,
 - c. against the rulers of the darkness of this age,
 - d. against spiritual hosts of the wickedness.

Conclusion

- I. Read Eph. 1:3-14.
- II. Eph. 6:24 "Grace *be* with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen."

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