

What Makes You Blessed?

- *Romans 4:1-8*

- **I am glad to be in the hose of God this morning & I trust that each of you will worship the Lord today & give Him the praise He so justly deserves. We serve a mighty God today & He is able to meet any need in your life; all He ask is that you trust in Him.**
- **God is a gracious God who shows His abundant mercy & grace each and every day in our lives & this morning I just want to say thank you Lord for your many blessings.**
- **We are a blessed people b/c of God's goodness & I hope that you will take time to thank Him for His many blessings today.**
 - As I think about the blessings of God & His favor that He gives in our lives, I can honestly say, "I don't deserve His kindness."
 - The truth is, God is far better to us than we have ever been or will ever be to Him.
 - We are a blessed people. We are a blessed people b/c of what God has done.
- **It is not uncommon for people in our world today to consider themselves blessed. Many consider "being blessed" as a reference to the possessions or the wealth that they possess, and certainly that is a blessing that we should be thankful for. As a matter of fact,**
 - If you have any amount of money in the bank, you are better off than most of the world.
 - If you have the capacity to feed you & your family 3 meals today, there are many in your community that wished they had that same guarantee.
 - If you own a car or a house, you are considered among the most wealthiest in the world.
- **But as we begin to measure the blessings that we have in our life, I asked myself this question, "What Makes You Blessed?"**
 - If we were to talk one on one today & I asked you to narrow down the one thing that you would say determines you being blessed, what would it be?
 - Though many consider their possessions as a significant blessing, what happens when those blessings are taken in a fire or a flood? Are you still blessed?
 - Many consider their blessing to be their health, but what about when the Dr. says you have a terminal illness? Your health is slipping from you & you will eventually lose it. Do you still consider yourself blessed?
- **You see, I consider possessions, a job, food, clothes, and health, blessings from God; but I don't measure me being blessed by just those things. In other words, if all of those things were taken away today, I would still be blessed.**
 - The story of Job is a humbling story of a man who seemingly had everything you could possibly want, yet everything was taken from him in a moment.
 - Now if his measure of blessedness was just based on wealth & health, would he have been able to say, "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."? Certainly not.
 - There was something else, some other facet of Job's life that made him a blessed man.
- **The Bible has a lot to say about blessed people throughout the Old & New Testament's, yet this morning I want us to focus on one particular passage of scripture that was written in the book of Psalms & quoted for us again here in Romans 4.**
- **READ SCRIPTURE**
- **So according to our passage this morning, can I tell you what makes you blessed today?**
 - It's not possessions,
 - It's not wealth,
 - It's not your health,
 - It's not your job,
 - It's that if you have called upon Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven! That is David's measure of being blessed.

- Mrs. Sue over here, several years ago, your family lost all of its possessions in a house fire, right? That was devastating, it was horrible to lose all those clothes & possessions. But even though a fire consumed some of your physical blessings, you were still blessed, b/c she had placed her faith & trust in Jesus Christ & though all that she had on this earth was taken away, it didn't take away her salvation & her forgiveness.
- Preacher, Nancy, Rhonda, several of you have had to face cancer in recent days. Your physical health was taken from you in sorts & though God spared you, your health isn't what it used to be, right? You once considered your good health a blessing, but even through cancer, you're blessed. Why? Because cancer can't touch the grace that has given to your lives through the blood of Jesus Christ.
- There's been others who have passed on in recent years due to poor health (Bob McDaniel, Mrs. Slusher, Kitten West, Gwen Esselburn, Howard Fowler & others). But even death could not take away their salvation & though they suffered on this earth for a time, they are now resting in the presence of their Savior.
 - You see folks, the poorest man on this earth, if he knows Christ, David says he is blessed.
- **Don't tell me we can't rejoice today! Don't tell me we can't think of anything to thank God for in our lives! I know life is rough, I know life catches us by surprise sometimes, I know we don't enjoy some of the things we have to go through here on this earth, but church the fact remains that if you know Jesus Christ this morning, YOU ARE BLESSED! Why? Because your sins have been forgiven and they have been covered by the blood of Jesus Christ!**
- **Now we are reminded in this passage that our salvation & the grace of God cannot be earned. It is a gift from God.**
 - Read vv.4-5 again.
 - There is absolutely no way that you & I can offer God anything towards our salvation.
 - As a matter of fact, if our salvation depended on us at all, it would be insufficient b/c of the sin that reigns in our lives.
 - Paul takes time to remind us that the grace of God cannot be earned, it must be received.
 - If you and I have a debt that we can't pay, one option might be for us to work that debt off. That has nothing to do with grace. (v.4)
 - Nothing you & I could ever do in the name of God would be sufficient for salvation aside from placing our trust and our faith in Him.
 - When Jesus gave of His life on the cross of Calvary, His sacrifice was sufficient to pay our debt.
 - If someone wanted to buy me a car.
 - There is nothing we can do to pay for, to work for, or to earn our salvation. It is a gift from God.
 - As good a man as Abraham was, his works were still insufficient to obtain righteousness. The Bible says that, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness."
 - You see it wasn't his works or his deeds, it was his faith in God that obtained his righteousness.
 - Look at David. A man after God's own heart, a shepherd boy who was called out to be the King of Israel, one of the greatest warriors Israel had ever known; yet, he still needed the righteousness of God applied to his life, especially after his sin.
 - Now, you have to understand, as they would read this, they would think of Abraham as the greatest of saints, and they would think of David, as the greatest of sinners because David had committed a terrible, horrible sin.
 - David had committed adultery and in order to try to cover that adultery,
 - David had committed murder. He had just broken God's commandments and David was worthy of death but God brought him to a place of repentance.

- He received the grace of God and he wrote a Psalm telling about it and that's what Paul was quoting, is [Psalm 32:1, 2](#).
 - After David had sinned & confessed his sin before God, David experienced the grace of God, and he wrote this: "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered, Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile."
 - Now, you see, there was nothing David could do. He deserved death, his case was hopeless apart from God's amazing grace. But when David confessed his sin before God, God put on his account righteousness.
- **Now I know that sin is not a pleasant subject to talk about, I know it doesn't bring joy for us to be reminded that we are all sinners; but avoiding the problem & overlooking our condition will never change the fact that we are bound in sin without Christ.**
- Since the days of Adam & Eve, their fall brought about judgment for all mankind.
 - Their one sin brought the curse of sin upon every one born on this earth.
 - Now thankfully, God forgave Adam & Eve as He has forgiven countless others down through the ages.
 - But I don't want us to ever forget that every time we are forgiven, there is a cost associated to that forgiveness.
 - In Old Testament days, that cost commonly came in the form of a sacrificial lamb being offered to God.
 - It was customary for a person to bring a lamb & offer it to the priest on behalf of his sins.
- **In Leviticus [chapter 16](#), there's a ritual there, it's the story of the scapegoat. In Old Testament times God gave so many pictures and illustrations of salvation and what salvation accomplished for those who would believe in God. And in the illustration of the scapegoat, they would take two goats and bring those two goats to the door of the tabernacle.**
- One goat would be slain, his throat would be cut, the blood would be spilled out, and that would picture Jesus on the cross, in agony and shedding His blood, dying for us.
 - But then Aaron, the High Priest, would take both hands and lay his hands on the head of the other goat, the live goat called the scapegoat, and confess the sins of the people upon the head of that goat. And then that goat would be led out into the wilderness never to return, picturing our sins being carried away by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. And when Aaron laid his hands on the head of that goat the sins of the people of Israel were being placed, imputed, charged, reckoned upon the head of that goat, picturing our sins being laid upon the Lord Jesus.
- **Now, watch this. Adam's sin was imputed to you, your sin was imputed to Jesus and now, thank God, Jesus' righteousness is imputed to us. His righteousness is imputed to us.**
- Abraham believed God, and the Bible tells us it was counted (or reckoned, or imputed) unto him for righteousness.
 - David said, "Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, whose sins are covered."
- **Now what does that mean for me & you? I am so glad you asked!**
- 1. Your sins have been forgiven.**
- You say, "Well of course my sins have been forgiven. I have heard that before." But do you understand what that means?
 - When God forgives you, there has to be a price paid for that forgiveness. If any sin is forgiven, the One who does the forgiving is the One who bears the penalty.
 - If you stole \$100 from me & you later confessed that you had stolen, but now you don't have the means to pay it back, if I forgive you of the debt, it just cost me \$100.
 - The moment I forgive his sin, I also take on the penalty.
 - That's what Jesus was doing on the cross. God is not overlooking that sin, God himself is paying the price of that sin.

2. Your sins have been forgotten.

- I might forgive him for taking that \$100 & I may even release him from the debt he owes, but it is going to be awful hard to forget it.
- But when God forgives us our sins & the blood of Jesus Christ is applied to those sins, they are never remembered again b/c they are covered.
 - Micah 7:19 – “He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.”

3. Your sins have NOT been imputed on you.

- A man will never be able to justify himself before God. No one can free himself from sin and force God to accept him.
 - Justification, complete deliverance from sin and condemnation, comes from God and God alone.
 - Yet once our sins are forgiven, they are no longer charged to our account and they are no longer counted against us or imputed on us.
 - The torment of sin & its consequences, thanks to God, has been rid of our account.
 - There was a man by the name of William Cowper who was so tormented in his mind. He was so distraught, he lived in Paris. He was going to kill himself. He went down to the Seine river that runs through Paris and four times he tried to get enough courage to throw himself in the river Seine, he couldn't do it, so he went and got some poison and he was going to take the poison. Three times he put the poison to his lips but he couldn't do it. So he said, I'll take a gun and I will shoot myself, and twice he took a gun and put it to his temples but could not release the trigger. And then somebody told him about Jesus and William Cowper wrote these words: “There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Emmanuel's veins and sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.”
 - Because of your faith in Christ & His sacrifice, your sins have been forgiven & we have been cleansed by the Blood of the Lamb.
- **Do you know this Jesus today? Not on paper, not a head knowledge, but I am asking you today if you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.**
- You may be ashamed of your sins, but Christ will forgive you today.
 - You may be a good person, but without the blood of Christ, your sins are still imputed on you. But if you will accept Him today, God will save you & you can be redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.
- **Maybe you thought the blessings of God was just wrapped up in physical things & you have forgotten how blessed you really are this morning b/c of your salvation & you just want to come & say Thank You this morning.**