

A Promised Blessing

Sermon Notes – March 19, 2023

Jeremiah 31:3 reveals the heart of our Father to us, ... “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.”

Romans 5:8 reveals God’s love for us: “But God demonstrated his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

1 John 4:19 - “We love because he first loved us.”

We see evidence of God’s everlasting love in **Ephesians 1:4-5**: For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-”

2 Peter 1:3-4 reveals how God intends to carry out this purpose in our lives: “His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”

We participate in his divine nature by participating in his fulfilled promises. Jesus crushed the head of the serpent by being obedient to the Father. We participate in Jesus’ victory through belief and obedience.

1 John 5:5 - Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

James 4:7 - Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

When we believe in Jesus and submit to the Father’s will, we overcome temptation.

From the beginning of time, it has been God’s desire for all His creation to be blessed.

Genesis 1:20 - And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky”.

Genesis 1:22 - “God blessed them and said, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas and let the birds increase on the earth.’”

Genesis 1:28 - ... “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it...”

Even though all humanity had been sold as a slave to sin, God’s eternal purpose for those made in his image did not change.

The next time the word blessing appears in scripture is after the flood when Noah and his family came out of the ark.

Genesis 9:1 - Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.

After some time had passed, God chose Abram, a man who lived in Ur of the Chaldeans, to reveal himself to in order to restore fellowship with humanity through the seed of the woman who would crush the head of the serpent.

Genesis 12:1-3 - ¹The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. ²“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

The blessing the LORD bestowed upon Abram, whose name was changed to Abraham – meaning father of a multitude of nations – would have its final fulfillment in the salvation of the world.

The apostle Paul expounded on how God blessed the peoples on earth through Abraham in his letter to the Galatians:

Galatians 3:8 - Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.”

Galatians 3:26-29 - ²⁶So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

The most important aspect of the blessing is that we bear the name of Jesus. We are called Christians, which means little Christ. We are one with him and with the Father by the Spirit.

1 John 2:6 – Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

None of the trials, tribulations or difficult circumstances we go through in life will abort God’s purpose for us or separate us from his love.

Romans 8:37-39 - ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

If we want to endure and not be consumed by the cares of this world we must remember that the substance of the blessing is that our sins are forgiven, our name is written in the Lamb's book of life, by his divine power we have been adopted into his family, we are holy and blameless in his sight, and we are able to escape corruption that is in this world and participate in the divine nature.

"We have often settled for *happiness or comfort or wealth* when God wanted us to be *blessed*. True *blessing* from God is higher than happiness or wealth or comfort." – Enduring Word Commentary on Numbers 6:24-26

Psalm 67:1-2 - ¹May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us – ²so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

This is the purpose of the blessing, that we might enjoy fellowship with God and make him known, so that whosoever will, may be saved.