



Sermon Notes: November 22, 2015

Receiving God's Blessing

4 of 4 from the teaching series "The Blessing"

Genesis 1:27-28; 17:1-7; Galatians 3:8-14 • Pastor Paul Bradford

1) God's blessing of Adam expressed his desire for mankind.

Genesis 1:27-28 • ²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

- When God created the first man and woman, he greatly honored them, creating them in his own image, blessing them, and calling them "very good."
- God blessed Adam and Eve with...
 - Communion - God communicated to them directly
 - Fruitfulness - Flourish, prosper
 - Increase - Have kids that reflect his image
 - Dominion - Authority, ability to live nobly, to control their environment without it dominating them
- But Adam and Eve sinned, and sin brought a curse on all people and all creation. Evil covered the earth, and mankind became alienated from God and his good plan for us.
- Many years later, the Lord revealed himself to a man named Abram and blessed him.

2) God's blessing unconditionally restored Abraham to a place of favor.

Genesis 17:1-7 • ¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. ² Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." ³ Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, ⁴ "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵ No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you."

- Abraham's blessing was the free sovereign choice God made to choose to show his special favor to one man and his descendants forever - a divine gift, not earned by Abraham.
- Abraham's blessing was a restoration to a place of God's favor - it included communion, fruitfulness, increase, and dominion.
- Abraham's blessing was unconditional - *Genesis 15:6*

3) We enter the blessing of Abraham just as he did - through faith.

Galatians 3:8-14 • 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." ⁹ So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. ¹⁰ For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." ¹¹ Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because "the righteous will live by faith." ¹² The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, "The person who does these things will live by them." ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a

ple.”¹⁴ He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

- When you put your trust in Jesus as your Savior from sin and as the leader of your life, you enter this blessing (v.10).
- We can never measure up or gain God’s acceptance by performance (v.10).
- Christ took the curse for us - the wrath and punishment of God - so that God could pour out his blessing on us, which we receive by faith (v.13-14).
- The blessing cannot fail, because it’s by grace, not by works, and it’s from God, not from man or woman (Numbers 23:19).

4) Faith is a way of living, not simply a way of thinking.

- True faith results in obedient action.
- A life of faith includes...
 - Believing
 - Being transformed by the renewing of your mind
 - Being obedient in faith

OUR RESPONSE

The [unconditional blessing](#) of God is upon every Christian; let’s receive it [through faith](#).