

Theme: In Adam we experienced all the consequences of sin: separation from God, condemnation, suffering and death. From the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam flow the blessings of our union with Christ: justification, eternal life and renewal in the image of God. We live in the restoration of the promises of God for life and blessing in him.

Introduction: When the gifts just keep coming!

## I. The Gift of Righteousness

### A. The Covenant of Works: Failure

1. Adam's Calling: Priest – Prophet – King
2. Adam's Position: Our Covenant Representative
  - a. Who disobeyed God and brought us death
  - b. Whose fallen nature we inherited as we are "in Adam"

### B. The Covenant of Grace: Triumph

1. Christ, Our Representative: One Who Cannot Fail
  - a. To save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21)
  - b. To do the Father's will (John 6:38)
  - c. Sent in time, into our world (Isaiah 42:6)
2. Restoring What Was Promised (and Lost)
  - a. Gift of righteousness (Romans 5:17)
    - 1) He is "our righteousness" (1 Corinthians 1:30)
    - 2) In him we become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21)
  - b. Justification of life as a free gift (Romans 5:18)

## II. Resurrection Life to Come (21-23)

### A. Jesus, the First fruits

1. Offered in anticipation of the full harvest (Exodus 23:19; Leviticus 23:10)
2. We await the full harvest! (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

### B. Jesus, Raised to God's Right Hand

1. Man made a little lower than the angels (Psalm 8:5, 6)  
We don't see that right now (Romans 8:20, 21)
2. Christ is crowned with glory and honor! (Hebrews 2:9)
  - a. Ascending to God's right hand! (1 Corinthians 15:27)
  - b. Above all earthly and heavenly powers (Ephesians 1:20-22)
3. We are raised up with him! (Ephesians 2:6)  
With authority to judge angels (1 Corinthians 6:3)

### C. The Lamb's Bride

1. Christ and His Bride (Ephesians 5:31)  
Pure and spotless, without stain
2. Restored to paradise (Revelation 21:9; 22:1-4)
  - a. The water of life (Christ Jesus himself)
  - b. The tree of life (eternal life)
  - c. Abundance!

## III. New Life Now

### A. God's Image Renewed in Us

1. Christ, the Image of the Invisible God (Colossians 1:15)
  - a. As true God

- b. In his incarnation
- 2. Image of God Marred in Us
  - a. Not destroyed
  - b. But disabled
- 3. The Spirit of Christ in Us (1 Corinthians 15:45)
  - a. Granting a life-giving Spirit
  - b. A new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:9)

As a new creation:

- B. God's Calling is Restored (Colossians 3:10; Ephesians 4:24)
  - 1. Knowledge
    - a. Adam failed to proclaim and uphold the truth
    - b. Christ proclaimed and upheld the perfect will of God (John 15:15)
    - c. We are his witnesses! (Romans 15:14; Ephesians 1:17; 2 Corinthians 2:14)
  - 2. Righteousness
    - a. Adam was called to a kingly rule  
But sin *reigned* in and through Adam
    - b. Christ establishes righteousness and justice  
He rewards obedience and punishes disobedience
    - c. His people are delivered from bondage  
Sin no longer *reigns* over us (Romans 6:11-14)
  - 3. Holiness
    - a. Adam met with God in the garden: a priestly role
    - b. Christ, our perfect high priest  
The perfect mediator, the perfect sacrifice for sins
    - c. Our priestly office and privilege is restored!
      - 1) We are God's temple (1 Corinthians 3:16, 17; Ephesians 2:22)
      - 2) We have access to God (Hebrews 4:16; 1 Peter 2:9)

#### IV. The Power of the New Life

- A. To grow in the knowledge of the Lord your God: with the power to make him known
- B. To exercise *dominion* wherever God gives us responsibility
  - 1. A God honoring, life exalting exercise of authority
  - 2. Upholding righteousness, truth, and justice
  - 3. To worship in Spirit and in truth
    - a. The barrier of sin has been removed
    - b. The curtain that barred our entry has been opened (Hebrews 10:19-22)