

GOD’S BLESSING
PART 3-HOW DOES GOD BLESS US?
PART 1d-SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS
EPHESIANS 1:3-10

Introduction

We are presently in a series on “**GOD’S BLESSING!**” First, we looked at: **WHY DOES GOD BLESS US? We saw from Psalm 67 that God blesses us first and foremost so that we can bring glory to His name!**

The last 3 messages we’ve looked at **HOW DOES GOD BLESS US?**

We said first of all that WE ARE BLESSED WITH SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS FROM OUR RELATIONSHIP–THE RELATIONSHIP OF BEING IN CHRIST!

*The NATURE of our Spiritual Blessings are four-fold: 1) They are of the Spirit, 2) they are eternal, 3) they are vastly superior to material blessings, 4) they are found **IN CHRIST!***

For the last three weeks we have been looking at some of these Spiritual blessings that we have in Christ! I’m not going to review, but we have seen 5 of these Spiritual Blessings thus far and today I want us to see two more!

Here is the first one today and sixth overall if you’re keeping count:
WE HAVE THE SPIRITUAL BLESSING OF ABUNDANT WISDOM AND PRUDENCE! (Vs 8)

The word “*wisdom*” means “*seeing and knowing the truth.*”

It is seeing and knowing what to do.

It grasps the great truths of life.

It sees the answers to the problems of life and death, God and man, time and eternity, good and evil—the deep things of God and of the universe.

Webster defined *wisdom* as “*the right use or exercise of knowledge; the choice of laudable ends, and of the best means to accomplish them.*”

This wisdom—true wisdom—is found only in Jesus Christ!

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Consider what the Scripture says of wisdom:

*Proverbs 2:6–“For **the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding**”*

Is there any wonder that when the Bible was taken out of our schools true education plummeted?

*Romans 11:33– “**O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!**”*

Some people keep trying to figure God out—STOP THAT!

*1 Corinthians 1:24–“But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greek, **Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.**”*

*1 Corinthians 1:30–“But of him are ye in **Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.**”*

1 Corinthians 2:9-16

Speaking of Christ, *Colossians 2:3–“**In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**”*

Wisdom is not found in the encyclopedia, the internet, the school teachers, or even in a college education, but in Christ!

The word “*prudence*” means “*seeing how to use and do the truth.*”

It is an intellectual and moral insight.

It is seeing the direction to take.

It is understanding, insight, the ability to solve day to day problems.

It is a down-to-earth practical understanding of things.

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Webster says, “*Prudence differs from wisdom in this, that prudence implies more caution and reserve than wisdom, or is exercised more in foreseeing and avoiding evil, than in devising and executing that which is good. It is sometimes mere caution or circumspection.*” (e.g. The Book of Proverbs)

Ephesians 1:17-18

*Colossians 1:9—“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all **wisdom and spiritual understanding**”*

*1 John 5:20—“And we know that the Son of God is come, and **hath given us an understanding**, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life”*

*So, WE HAVE THE SPIRITUAL BLESSING OF ABUNDANT WISDOM AND PRUDENCE! **Second for today and seventh overall:***

WE HAVE THE SPIRITUAL BLESSING OF THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S WILL REVEALED TO US! (Vs 9-10)

Paul said here that God has revealed the *mystery of His will* to us. This is the key thought and great theme of Ephesians.

We need to remember that in the Bible a *mystery* is not something mysterious and difficult to understand. Rather, it is a truth that has been locked up in God's plan for ages until He was ready to reveal it to man.

When the time came, He unlocked the truth and opened it up to man! A *mystery* is a truth revealed by God that had never before been known!

The *mystery of God's will* can be simply stated. God is going to gather together and unify all things in a spirit of peace and harmony—all things, both visible and invisible.

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All things are to be brought to a peaceful and eternal state under the authority and glorification of Jesus Christ. And God is actively moving history toward that climactic consummation.

Let me share several things about what Paul is saying here in Ephesians 1:9-10:

1st Thought

God has an eternal purpose and plan for the world, and it is His pleasure to bring it about!

He joys and rejoices to bring it about, and what He does is good! It is all good!

2nd Thought

Understand that there is presently a terrible division throughout the universe!

The need for God “*to gather all things in heaven and earth*” indicates such a division! What caused the division? Sin! Satan's sin and Man's sin caused an upheaval throughout the universe!

And the fact that God's primary concern through all the ages has been to harmonize the division shows how devastating and horrible the division really is.

3rd Thought

At some point in the future there is going to be a consummation, a climax of history—a fulness of time, a new order—in which all things will be unified and harmonized and brought to a peaceful state under the authority of Jesus Christ!

History is in the hands of God! The word Paul uses is “*dispensation*” which literally means, “*household arrangement.*”

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The idea is that the universe is a house under the management of God.

God is handling, planning, arranging, and administering all things toward a climactic consummation for Christ and His followers.

In that consummation all disharmony and division and evil will be subjected and harmonized under Christ. A new and perfect and eternal creation will be established for the Lord and His followers throughout the universe.

Philippians 2:9-11— "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

4th Thought

Jesus Christ is God's appointed Head over the new creation and new order. He is God's Head over the Church, which is God's new creation in the present world and order of things (Ephesians 1:22-23).

And He is to be God's Head over the new creation in the future world and order of things.

5th Thought

The Church is the Lord's instrument of reconciliation and peace, His representative body upon the earth.

As the instrument of the Lord, the Church is to take Christ and His message of reconciliation and peace to the world.

If you are here without Christ, you are presently at enmity with God!

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Romans 5:10— "...when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son..."

Turn to one last Scripture in 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

Conclusion

We are still not done yet! There are more Spiritual Blessings that Paul mentions here that we want to take a look at next week, Lord willing!

Again, I tell you that all of these Spiritual Blessings come only to those who are in Christ!

The question for today is, are you "***in Christ***"? Have you experienced the spiritual blessing of the forgiveness of your sins that can only come from placing your faith in Christ?

If not, the Bible says that the wrath of God abides on you!

John 3:36— "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on Him."

Jesus Christ paid the price so that you could get in on these spiritual blessings! Won't you come to Him today?