

Lesson 11 - Our Blessings

Romans 5:1 begins, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have . . ." and then proceeds to speak of the blessings that we have as believers. These are blessings given to every person who has been justified by faith. In lessons nine and ten we have already seen that we have peace with God, standing in grace, a hope of glory, and are sealed with the Holy Spirit. As wonderful as this is, there is even more! In this lesson we will learn more about the marvellous blessings that we have in Christ.

Regeneration

Titus 3:3 describes each one of us before we were justified by faith: "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another." Certainly not a very pretty picture! We were enemies of God and were spiritually dead. However, that is not the end of the matter!

"But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour" (Titus 3:4-6). This passage tells us about another spiritual blessing we have.

The Holy Spirit has regenerated us. The word "regeneration" means a new birth or to be produced anew. The Holy Spirit has given us a new spiritual birth. We are no longer "dead in trespasses and sins," but have spiritual life within us.

Some have taught that the "washing of regeneration" mentioned in Titus 3:5 is water baptism. Since this has to do with receiving spiritual life, it is very important that we understand how this takes place in our lives. We must understand the following points:

- 1) Titus 3:5 says that this is "not by works of righteousness which we have done." Water baptism is a work done by men (a priest, pastor, etc.). Therefore water baptism cannot regenerate us.
- 2) "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:11). It is clearly stated in this verse that we are "washed . . . by the Spirit of our God," not by water baptism. Everyone who is justified by faith is instantly regenerated by the Holy Spirit!

Indwelling

"So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Romans 8:8-9). Our own efforts to be religious and do good things can never please God. These arise out of our own flesh and we cannot please God "in the flesh." The good news is that we have the Holy Spirit living in us.

Everyone, who has been justified by faith, belongs to Jesus Christ. Everyone who belongs to Jesus Christ has the Spirit of Christ living in him. There is nothing we must do to get the Holy Spirit to come to live in us. On the contrary, the Holy Spirit immediately comes to dwell in every person at the moment he believes the gospel of grace.

"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that

dwelleth in you" (Romans 8:11). This verse tells us that the Spirit of God dwells in our mortal bodies. A mortal body is a body that is subject to death or is destined to die. This refers to the bodies that we have now. We also find this truth taught in the following verse: "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" (1 Corinthians 6:19).

If you are saved, your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. He lives in you!

More Spiritual Blessings

1. We have fellowship with God - 1 Corinthians 1:9. Nothing can break this fellowship.
2. We have liberty - Galatians 5:1.
3. We have been justified---declared righteous - Romans 5:1
4. We are dead to the law and alive unto God (See Galatians 2:19)
5. We have unlimited access to God - Ephesians 2:18.
6. Christ lives in us - Galatians 2:20
7. We belong to Christ "And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's" (1 Corinthians 3:23).
8. We are partakers of God's promise - Ephesians 3:6.
9. We will never face the wrath of God - Romans 5:9.
10. We have been delivered from the curse of the law - Galatians 3:13.

Review Questions Lesson 11 - Our Blessings

True or False

1. Upon faith in Christ and His death we are saved from hell, but we do not get other spiritual blessings unless we obey God's commands.
2. Water baptism is the "washing of regeneration."
3. The Holy Spirit dwells in our mortal bodies.
4. We have liberty in Christ only if we feel free.

Multiple Choice

5. We are:
 - a) dead to the law
 - b) dead to righteousness
 - c) alive unto God
 - d) servants of sin
6. Galatians 2:20 teaches that:
 - a) Christ lives in me
 - b) Christ gave Himself for me
 - c) We can be demon-possessed
 - d) Christ lives in me when I obey His commands
7. Ephesians 3:6 teaches that:
 - a) Only Jews are included in God's promise
 - b) Infant baptism makes us partakers in God's promise
 - c) God's promise is only for those who keep His commands
 - d) We are partakers in God's promise

Fill in the Blanks

8. Christ has redeemed us from the _____ of the law.
9. According to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of _____, and of the Holy Ghost.
10. The moment we believe the gospel the _____ comes to live in us.

Further Study

Galatians 3:2, Romans 5:10,
Romans 3:24, Galatians 3:26
Colossians 1:14,
I Corinthians 6:11, Galatians 4:7
Ephesians 1:6, Galatians 4:6,
Ephesians 1:5