

Holy and Blameless Before Him

February 14, 2019

Ephesians 1:1-3 ESV

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God...

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

2 Peter 1:3 ESV

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life (zoe) and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

- God has blessed us and given to us, in Jesus Christ, all things PERTAINING to LIFE and GODLINESS.
- BY relationship, THROUGH knowing Him, "all things" are communicated and transferred to us.
- Wisdom in making decisions, strength to resist any temptation, healing for sickness, peace for troubled minds, faith for our fears, strength for our weaknesses, chastening for our discipline - all freely given and available in Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:4 ESV

4 even as he chose (eklegomai - to pick out, choose, select) us in him before the foundation of the world...

Psalm 139:13-16 ESV

13 For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

Ephesians 1:4 ESV

4 ...that we should be holy and blameless before him. [In love]

Isaiah 1:18 ESV

18 Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

Isaiah 53:11 ESV

11 ...by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV

21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Romans 3:21-22 ESV

21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it--

22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

Hebrews 10:10-14 ESV

10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

11 And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,

13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet.

14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

- When we sin, we never have to experience the torment that maybe Jesus won't forgive me this time, maybe I've sinned one too many times.
- Every sin, even future sins, have already been borne away in Jesus on the cross.
- When I confess my sins, I can confess in confident assurance, knowing that forgiveness has already been given.
- Self-condemnation comes from the root of self-righteousness. When I am tormented that maybe this time God won't forgive me, I am still trusting in my self-righteousness instead of trusting in the forgiveness Jesus purchased on the cross.

1 John 1:7-10 ESV

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

- Many times we don't actually deny sin, but we justify and make excuses.

Psalms 32:1-5 ESV

1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

2 Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

5 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

Hebrews 9:13-14 ESV

13 For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh,

14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

conscience (syneidēsis) the soul as distinguishing between what is morally good and bad, prompting to do the former and shun the latter, commending one, condemning the other

- *If our conscience is not purified, then we serve God out of guilt, obligation and fear instead of love and worship.*

1 John 3:19-21 ESV

19 By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him;

20 for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.

21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God.

1 John 4:16-18 ESV

16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

Jeremiah 31:34 ESV

34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Micah 7:18-19 ESV

18 Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.

19 He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.