

“The 7-FOLD Excellencies of the Mystery: “Every Benefit of Grace, Fully Provided”

Theme Verses:

Phil. 1:10 . . . That ye may **approve** things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

Rom 12:1-2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: **but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may [ap]prove** what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Review:

- ***So we have been considering these Seven Excellencies revealed by Paul for the Gentiles, for the church which is his Body. This is the list: A New Dispensation, A Better Gospel, Every Spiritual Blessing, An Abundant Life, The Church Which Is One Body, The Blessed Hope and Heavenly Calling (or rapture), and A Heavenly Warfare***

- ***We examined in detail Our Own Dispensation, the dispensation of the grace of God firstly:***
 - ***The dispensation of the grace of God***
 - ***Kept secret from the foundation***
 - ***Regarding the plan of God from before the foundation of the world***
 - ***Hidden in God (not in the scriptures) as the progressive dispensationalists would wish***
 - ***BUT now revealed for us Gentiles by the risen and ascended Christ to and through Paul!***

- ***Then, last time we fellowshiped around the unique gospel for this dispensation, (which is our Second Excellency in this series of Seven):***
 - ***The Gospel of the Grace of God: Its Source -- From Heaven (from Christ Jesus in Heaven's Glory)***
 - Gal. 1:6
 - 6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another [of a different kind] gospel:
 - 7 Which is not another [of the same kind]; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

- ***The Gospel of the Grace of God: Its Character and Content -- Grace, Grace, and More Grace!!***
 - ***1 Cor. 15:1-5***
 - 1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;
 - 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.
 - 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how **that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;**
 - 4 **And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:**
 - 5 **And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve . . . [and finally, Paul]**
 - ***So, The Gospel of the Grace of God: Its Character and Content: All of faith and all by God's unlimited grace (through the instrumentality of the gospel), no kingdom works according to conditional covenants, and no accompanying signs as the dispensation comes into its maturity after Israel and its covenants have been set aside temporarily.***
- ***The Gospel of the Grace of God: Its Critical Importance -- It is the Instrument of Salvation***
 - ***2 Tim. 2:8-10***
 - 8 Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:
 - ...
 - 10 **Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.**
- ***So Paul dedicated himself to preaching this blessed message. And why was he so dedicated?***
 - ***Because this gospel and this gospel alone is the power of God unto salvation of lost sinners!***
 - ***And though there are other gospels, there are no other gospel's like this one, for no other gospels are THE GOSPEL for this dispensation.***
- ***And so should we must be also dedicated to the testimony of God's unlimited grace -- that the lost might hear, believe, and be saved. Amen.***

Transition (the many dimensions of the mystery dispensation):

- ***First the dispensation itself - as a mystery***
- ***Then the gospel the grace of God, the unique gospel for this secret dispensation which has now been revealed***
- ***Now, the blessings under grace given by God for this dispensation, an abundance "far better" as is the dispensation and the gospel, our THIRD EXCELLENCY.***

Christ Jesus shed his blood for us sinners, he died, was buried, and was gloriously raised from the dead. That completed redemption ensures for us a great many blessings indeed. We shall consider these today.

TODAY: "Every Benefit of Grace, Fully Provided"

I. The Blessed Truth Summarized: "Every Spiritual Blessing In Christ Jesus"!
Key Verses:

[READ] Eph. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

- ***Where do we begin, where do we end with all of these blessings? FOR EXAMPLE, CONSIDER THIS SHORT LIST FOUND IN ROMANS 8:28-30:***
 - ***Justification (Christ's righteous act imputed to us believers)***
 - ***Redemption***
 - ***Forgiveness***
 - ***Sanctification***
 - ***Divine election***
 - ***Calling***

[READ] Rom 8:28-30

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

- ***This is the realm of "positional" truth as opposed to "conditional" truth. These are the blessings provided solely based on our salvation and in no way conditionally on our sanctification or obedience. We are "in Christ Jesus", an expression used by Paul 40 times (none by other writers except in 2 Peter, last verse where there is a dispute among textual critics as to what the correct reading should be)!***

Col 1:12-13

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

- ***Note that this is a statement of fact, not a directly expressed or implied exhortation.***
- ***We must never translate a statement of FACT into an EXHORTATION for obedience (to make it consistent with the commandments of other***

- dispensations, for example).*
- ***This is a critically essential, fundamental principle of Biblical interpretation.***
 - ***So, our point here is that as believers today, we possess Justification NOW. In other dispensational programs this WAS NOT TRUE, SO THE SCRIPTURES GIVEN TO THE JEWS UNDER THE LAW (THROUGH MOSES), FOR EXAMPLE, OR THE JEWS FOR THE KINGDOM (BY CHRIST) DO NOT STATE TRUTH FOR US TODAY (AT LEAST NOT TRUTH INTENDED FOR OUR OBEDIENCE). ROM. 15:4 SAYS THOSE SCRIPTURES ARE FOR OUR “EDIFICATION”, YES, BUT NOT FOR OUR “OBEDIENCE”.***

[Any comments on the importance of this for us to know today?]

#1: The Blessed Truth Summarized: “Every Spiritual Blessing In Christ Jesus”!

II. The Foundational Truth Proclaimed: The ‘Imputation’ of Christ’s Own Righteousness

- ***Rom. 8:30*** Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. Here “justified” = “[made] righteous”, or, “[declared] righteous”, ***righteousness imputed.***
- ***[READ] Rom 4:22-25***
 22 And **therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.**
 23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;
 24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;
 25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.
- ***[READ] 2 Cor. 5:19, 21***
 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.
 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.
- ***What then is this righteousness? According to the root meaning of the Greek word, it is “to do right, to do the right thing”, in general, and specifically, in this context, it refers directly to the “righteousness” of our Lord Jesus Christ himself...***
- ***But what is Christ’s righteousness is the logical next question? Isn’t that simply What Christ was sent to do (on our behalf)?***
 - ***Christ is NOT to be our example for living as so many have thought (at least not for us today living in this dispensation)***
 - ***BUT, RATHER TO BE our substitute, in that he died for our sins (remember, this is the gospel), 1 Cor. 15:3***
 - ***So Christ’s righteousness, according to Paul, is Christ dying for the***

sins of the world

- **And how is Christ's righteousness relevant to us? It has been imputed to our account, and not due to our works in any sense (Rom. 4:6), but entirely as a free gift as a result of the substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ on our behalf.**
 - **What does "imputed" mean?**
 - **Used 20 times by Paul, not by any other scripture writer (except in the gospels)**
 - **Used 10 times in Romans 4 alone**
 - **This is not therefore about Christ's righteousness being somehow mystically infused into us (through the sacraments) enabling us to now live it out with Christ's own example before our eyes continually. No. That is what the religionist might say though.**
 - **And that is what is behind the new age Christianity which is really the new age Catholicism.**
- **INSTEAD, what the apostle means when he so often writes to members of Christ's Body using this word "impute" or as we find the same word also translated in the KJV, "count" or "reckon", is this:**
 - **This is a word which implies faith or belief**
 - **It might also be translated "considered"**
 - **The focus is on the one considering it, and in most scriptures using this term that is the Lord God himself.**
- **So, the bottom line here is that due to the once and for all offering of the body of our Lord Jesus, which offering for our sin and sins our heavenly Father fully accepted, God himself has considered it to be true that we stand righteous before him. Our verse in 2 Cor. 5:21 says is better than we can: For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**

#1: The Blessed Truth Summarized: "Every Spiritual Blessing In Christ Jesus"!

#2: The Foundational Truth Proclaimed: The Imputation of Christ's Own Righteousness - and it should be needless to say that this has never been a reality in any other dispensation. It is unique to this one, of God's abundant grace. Amen?

[Your comments?]

Oh, the glory of this revelation now revealed and not before revealed by the prophets (because it could not be, as long as believers were living under a Legal System.

III. The Glory of It All - Our Reality: The Full and Completed Forgiveness of Sins

[READ] Eph 1:7

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; (*also, Col. 1:14*)

- ***What are the implications of this? Sermon on the Mount and the requirement for enduring to the end vs the higher ground of grace!! What a contrast.***
 - ***One looks forward to the Cross; The other looks back - what a difference***
 - ***One has the earthly kingdom in view; The other our eternal and heavenly hope with the free bestowal of Christ in us all NOW, the hope of glory.***
 - ***One, forgiveness dependent on our confession, the other our reality now.***
 - ***One, forgiveness dependent on our repentance (works), the other given independently of our works.***
 - ***One, forgiveness dependent on our obedience to do all that our Lord has commanded, the other gifted to us in spite of our disobedience and sin.***
- ***So we have a high and heavenly basis for forgiving one another now, no matter what the practical and personal issue may be.***
- ***Therefore we have his righteousness NOW!!! What are the consequences of this for our daily lives? Well, the answer is so simple: WE MAY ALWAYS BE RESTING, RESTING, RESTING IN THE FULLNESS OF HIS UNLIMITED GRACE AND LOVE.***
- ***FINALLY, let me emphasize that Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit uses an additional word to describe our situation before almighty God today. That word is "GLORY"! And we could go to so many scriptures to see this so clearly manifested in Paul's letters. But for now let us just leave it at this.***
 - ***GRACE IS ENOUGH FOR GOD'S GLORY TO BE MANIFESTED: Nothing more is needed! In other dispensations the program was different indeed. God has a nation and a people to exalt in the Mosaic dispensation of the law. He had a king and a kingdom to glorify in his millennial kingdom. But today he is working according the wealth of his grace, and so his grace is not only sufficient, BUT POWERFULLY INDEED***

Col. 1:24-29

24 [Paul . . .] Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;

26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus

29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS:

#1: The Blessed Truth Summarized: “Every Spiritual Blessing In Christ Jesus”!

#2: The Foundational Truth Proclaimed: The Imputation of Christ’s Own Righteousness

#3: The Glory of It All - Our Reality: The Full and Completed Forgiveness of Sins, Such A Transforming Thought

THESE ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS BUT THERE IS SO MUCH MORE. DON’T FORGET THE WORD “EVERY”! INDEED, “EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING IN THE HEAVENLIES IN CHRIST JESUS!” REVEALED NOW FOR US ALL -- AND TRUE.

[Your thoughts?]

ENJOY! AND AMEN.

