



Life Group Sermon Notes

"Blessed Life: Eternally Blessed"

Ps. James Lowe - February 28, 2016

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What is one of the best things you ever planned? What was so special about it?
- What is one of the best gifts you ever received that required some planning by the giver?
- If money wasn't an issue and you could plan something special for a loved one, what would it be?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (ESV)

"See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

- The creation account in the first chapters of Genesis report a similar choice given to mankind by God. God offered them the Tree of Life along with all the other trees in the Garden of Eden. But they chose the forbidden Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, which plunged them into spiritual and mortal death.
- Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount began with a list of blessings which belong to all who choose to follow him as his disciple. Yet he also warned that those who reject him will die in their sins and be separated from God for eternity.

Ephesians 1:3-10 (ESV)

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, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

- It is critical to know God loves us and has provided for our blessing in Christ in spite of our sinfulness.
- Already we are blessed in Christ. This is true regardless of our present circumstances. Those who know this and believe it have an anchor in their soul that keeps them close to God even when the storms and trials of life threaten to overwhelm them.
- No one can take God's blessing from the one who is in Christ. God has a plan for us that was established from the beginning. His goal is nothing less than our being conformed into his image, so that we might reflect his glory. He has determined to bless us throughout eternity.
- Knowing God is a far greater blessing than any of the material blessings he provides us with. Too many settle and ask only for "things" from God: jobs, promotions, provision, cars, houses, etc. While good relationships and good health are superior to these material blessings, they are still less than knowing and enjoying God.
- Next to knowing and enjoying God is the blessing of being conformed into his image. Although this process can be painful, its result is beautiful and praiseworthy. This is why we can praise God in all circumstances, and can have joy even in the midst of pain.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related point for discussion.

- What are some of the (non-material) blessings that God has already given you in this life? Will these blessings extend beyond this life?
- What are some of the blessings God has planned for us in the age to come when Jesus returns to raise the dead and renew the creation?
- Is there anything hindering your ability to be aware of God's blessings? What is it, and how could you overcome it?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Pray that God will deepen our revelation of all that God has done for us and all that he has planned for us in the future.
- Pray that God will show us how to overcome the things that distract us from our confidence and joy that come from our knowledge of our blessings in Christ.
- Pray that God will speak to us and guide us in planning special blessings for others in our lives.