

FOUNDATIONS, "GROWING IN KNOWING" LESSON 2

Intro. If we are going to live like Jesus wants us to live we're going to need to grow in knowing who we are and what we have through Him.

Colossians 1:10 (NIV) And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, *growing in the knowledge of God.*

2 Peter 3:18 (NKJV) but *grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...*

1 Peter 2:2 (NKJV) as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, *that you may grow thereby.*

1. Tonight and next week we're going to focus on some of the specifics of who we are and what we have through Christ

I. WE ARE THE _____ IN CHRIST

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become *the righteousness of God in Him.*

A. THIS IS SO IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT TELLS US BECAUSE OF WHAT JESUS DID _____

1. When we ask Jesus into our hearts we are born again and He begins to see us as righteous as Jesus
 - a. Theologians call this "imputed righteousness"
 - b. It means when we get saved God imputes or puts Jesus' righteousness in us
- *He sees us differently; as righteous as Jesus!*

B. THIS SHOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN HOW _____

ex. *We are righteous! We have the righteousness of God in Christ!*

1. That means something!
 - a. Our righteousness doesn't have anything to do with our "self"
 - b. It's because of the goodness of God through Jesus

Romans 5:17 (NKJV) For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive **abundance of grace** and of the **gift of righteousness** will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

2. It's so important to know we're righteous because it gives us confidence to come to God and to reign in life
 - a. There are many believers who wonder why God would answer their prayers
 - b. We don't have any trouble believing God heard Jesus' prayers because He was the Son of God; He was righteous

- ***Because of Jesus, God will answer our prayers as quickly as He answered Jesus' prayers***

C. WE HAVE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM AND BECAUSE OF THAT WE HAVE _____

Ephesians 3:12 (NKJV)

in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

1. We have access (free admission) into the presence of God to ask and receive what we need from Him!

Ephesians 3:12 (NIV)

In Him and through faith ***in Him we may approach God*** with freedom and confidence.

Psalm 40:1 (NKJV)

I waited patiently for the LORD; and **He inclined to me, and heard my cry.**

- *We have access to God!*
- *The image all of us need to have of God is Him leaning forward to hear when we pray*
- *We're growing in knowing we are righteous and because we are righteous we have access*

II. WE ARE _____

Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.**

2 Peter 1:3 (NIV)

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness **through our knowledge of Him** who called us by His own glory and goodness.

**A. GOD'S WORD TELLS US WE HAVE _____
BUT IT'S ONLY RECOGNIZED THROUGH OUR _____**

1. The more we get to know who we are and what we have in Him the more we'll understand we have everything we need

ex. *When Jesus asked the disciples to feed the 5000 it was a lesson in growing in knowing.*

John 6:5-6 & 11(NIV)

5 When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"

6 **He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.**

11 Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

- a. This was a test for Philip
- b. The test was whether Philip was going to be able to trust God to provide even when the need was "extreme"

Psalm 23:1 (TEV) The LORD is my shepherd; I have everything I need.

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV) And my God shall supply *all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

2. All of us will face the same test as Philip; whether we will trust God to provide for us
 - a. This is going to become more important in the days to come

Psalm 46:1 (NKJV) God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

- b. We are promised a refuge or a safe place to run to and it's in the presence of God
 - c. We need to know this if we are going to feel secure in the future
 - d. It will be a testimony to those who don't know God when we are confident in unstable times
3. We are rich in Christ and that means He is willing and able to provide for us
 - a. God can be very creative in how He provides

Matthew 17:24-27 (NKJV)

24 When they had come to Capernaum, those who received the temple tax came to Peter and said, "Does your Teacher not pay the temple tax?"

25 He said, "Yes." And when he had come into the house, **Jesus anticipated him**, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from strangers?"

26 Peter said to Him, "From strangers." Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free.

27 Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and

take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you."

- b. God *anticipates* every one of our needs!
- c. He knows what we need now and He knows what we're going to need in the future

Matthew 6:31-32 (NKJV)

31 Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For ***your heavenly Father knows*** that you need all these things.

- d. God knows or anticipates all our needs and loves us enough to take care of us
- e. He can be very creative in how He does it!

ex. *A coin from a fish's mouth
5 loaves and a few small fish to feed 5000.*

James 1:17 (NIV) Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father...

- *The Bible is an endless list of God's miraculous provision for His people*
- *God isn't limited in the ways He can meet our needs*
- *We simply need to trust that He will supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus*

Prayer and confession: *I believe God will provide for me, my family, and my church because He cares, He loves us, and loves to provide. I believe that I am the righteousness of God through Christ. Thank You Jesus, for giving me Your own righteousness. That's how You see me and how I will see myself; righteous. I have access to the Father, at any time, for any thing. I am rich through Christ. I will trust in Your provision in every area of my life, in Your name, Jesus, Amen.*

FILL IN THE BLANKS FROM LESSON #2

I. WE ARE THE (RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD) IN CHRIST

- A. THIS IS SO IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT TELLS US BECAUSE OF WHAT JESUS DID (GOD SEES US DIFFERENTLY)**
- B. THIS SHOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN HOW ___ (WE SEE OURSELVES)**
- C. WE HAVE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM AND BECAUSE OF THAT WE HAVE ___ (ACCESS)**

II. WE ARE _____ (RICH IS CHRIST)

- A. GOD'S WORD TELLS US WE HAVE (EVERYTHING WE NEED) BUT IT'S ONLY RECOGNIZED THROUGH OUR (KNOWLEDGE OF HIM)**