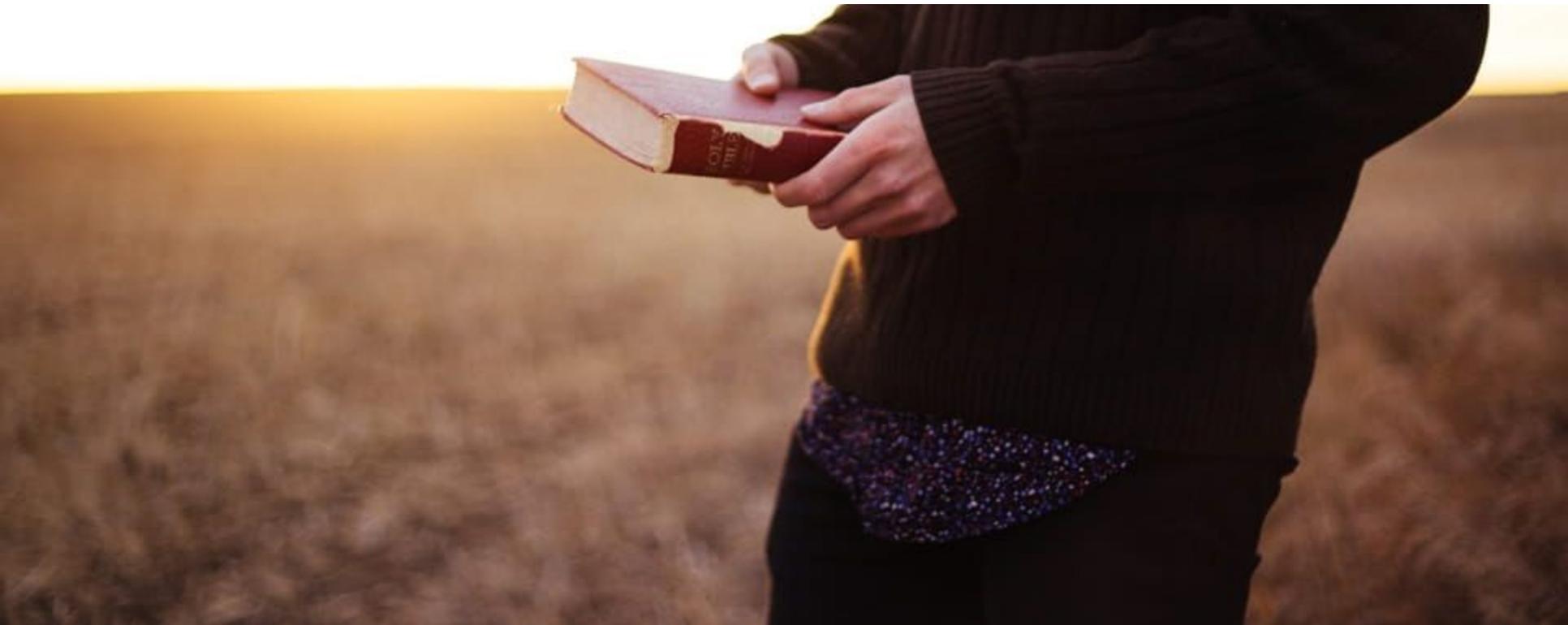


BLESSINGS OF BEING A CHRISTIAN, #1



I. Introduction:

“I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he hath counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief”-I Timothy 1:12-15.

**A. Though our backgrounds are completely different than Paul’s,
I would think that all of us can find identity with Paul’s statement here!**

B. From one vantage point, it is virtually unbelievable that the Lord would accept any sinner!

II. Let's take a look at one of the blessings God has bestowed upon His children!

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

“He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us”-Psalm 103:10-12.

“Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He retaineth not his anger forever, because he delighteth in mercy.

He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea”-Micah 7:18 & 19.

1. If God dealt with us according to our sins and iniquities, all of us would be punished in the everlasting fires of Hell!

2. Thank God for His great mercy that led Him to make provision for forgiveness of sins!!

“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring (groaning) all the day long.

For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture (life’s juices; strength & vitality) is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and my iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah”-
Psalm 32:1-5.

See the record in II Samuel 12:1-13; Psalm 51.

“And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said unto David, The Lord also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die”-II Samuel 12:13.

1. If God had dealt with David according to his sins and iniquities, he would have been smitten dead by the Lord!

2. That’s what he deserved; but God extended His great mercy towards David and forgave him for his sins!

3. The statement of Rick Ricard.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace”- Ephesians 1:3 & 7.

1. Redemption: “apolutrosis, the act of freeing or releasing: deliverance; hence, redemption for one from guilt and punishment of sin, brought about by expiation”-A Critical Lexicon and Concordance to the English and Greek New Testament, E. W. Bullinger, pg. 630.

2. Forgiveness: “aphesis, discharge, setting free; hence remission, remission of debt or punishment”- Ditto, pg. 303.

JUST THINK ABOUT THE MEANING OF REDEMPTION AND FORGIVENESS:

- 1. Adultery-a third party coming into a marriage**
- 2. Fornication-all kinds of unlawful sexual sins**
- 3. Uncleanness-generic word for uncleanness of all kinds-the opposite of holy**
- 4. Lasciviousness-excessive immoderation**
- 5. Idolatry-Col. 3:5, “*covetousness which is idolatry.*”**
- 6. Witchcraft-Ex. 22:18, witches to be put to death**
- 7. Hatred-hatred of a brother is murder-I Jn. 3:15**
- 8. Variance (strife, ASV)**
- 9. Emulations (jealousies, ASV)**
- 10. Wrath-“*works not the righteousness of God*”-Ja. 1:20**
- 11. Strife (factions, ASV)**

12. Seditious (divisions, ASV)

13. Heresies-ways contradictory to the bible

14. Envyings

15. Murders

16. Drunkenness-I Thess. 5:7, condemns both the beginning and “bombed out” stages of drunkenness

17. Revellings-carousings, merrymaking, & fornications

18. “and such like”

“Of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven”-Galatians 5:21.

Forgiveness means that all such sins are dismissed, put away, erased, and sins are no longer charged against the Christian as he walks in the light!!

Redemption means that the child of God is set free from both sin and its penalty!!

All of this is made possible by the blood of Christ and His death on Calvary's tree!

THE SHEDDING OF CHRIST'S BLOOD, AND HIS SACRICE ON THE CROSS WAS THE SATISFACTORY PRICE TO GOD FOR REDEMPTION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS!!

“Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

And he shall see the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall his righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities”-Isaiah 53:10 & 11.

“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past through the forbearance of God”-Romans 3:24 & 25.

THANK GOD FOR THE WONDERFUL BLESSING OF FORGIVENESS!!

“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”-Acts 2:37 & 38.