

I am blessed

From reading on 8/13/19

And a time of prayer on 8/14/19

Added - 8/14/19

From reading notes/fb post **Feeling blessed** on 8/13 and prayer this morning.

Introduction

When i was a kid, we sang this song:

I am blessed, I am blessed, every day of my life I am blessed

When I wake up in the morning, or lay my head to rest,

I am blessed, I am blessed, I am blessed

I always struggled with that song: I didn't understand the biblical basis for it - that we are... constantly blessed

This morning:

- I want to preach this truth: **You are blessed:**
- I want to iterate through some of the blessings we've received *from the fullness of His Grace*
- I want to give us some "take aways" because we are blessed
- Finally, we'll recall the sacrifice of Jesus in communion - and rejoice in the overflow of His grace

Exegesis

- I've got the NIV here on the screen - as I was reading it the other day, and this verse spoke to me.
- The ESV: **John 1:16** (ESV) (16) *And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.*
- But I like the wording in the NIV **John 1:16** (NIV) (16) *From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.*

Background

- This text comes from John 1 - the **prologue** to his Gospel
- In chapter 1, he speaks of the word becoming flesh
- God incarnate

Consider the source

- The verse begins **from the fullness of His grace**
- See back in v14 **John 1:14** (NIV) (14) *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*
- God (the Word) became flesh and dwelt among us... he was full of grace and truth
- **Full** - no lack, unlimited
- Jesus came and was filled with grace
- **Grace** - God's undeserved favor
- Jesus is the source of these blessings
- It's the fullness (unlimited overflow) of his grace (unmerited, undeserved) spilling into our lives

Consider the recipients

- The verse says *we have all received*
- Who is this we?
- It goes back to See **John 1:11-12** (ESV) (11) *He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. (12) But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,*
- The recipients of this blessing are those who have received Jesus!

Consider the reality

- This verse indicates the blessing is past tense
- *We have all received*
- When Christ died for us the *it is finished* of John 19:30 includes provision of the blessing of God!

- There's no qualifier or other bar - if we have received Christ, we are blessed!
- It's not just one blessing - but blessing upon blessing
- We are inundated with His blessing in our lives!

Applications

Receive this truth

- The first and main point of this message: we are blessed
- Not just taught here, but consider [Eph 1:3](#) (ESV) (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,*
- Or [Rom 8:31-32](#) (ESV) (31) *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (32) He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*
- **Point:** As a child of God - we are blessed
- **Remember:** The devil is a liar. Wants us to focus on ourselves and our worth (we aren't worthy) - but our text declares it's from the fullness of His grace
- Jesus paid it all - because of His obedience we are blessed today
- **Note:** All of the OT promises under the abrahamic covenant are ours
- Every promise is yes and amen through Jesus
- **REMEMBER:** Not a competition - there's enough for us all!

How am I blessed?

This would make a great study on its own! Just off the top of my head...

- Brought from death to life
- Access to the throne (see Hebrews) so we can boldly come
- An intercessor pleading our case
- Fulfillment of the promises
- Hope of eternal life
- Share in his inheritance
- Assurance of God's motive
- Forgiveness (1st John 1:9 - last week's promise)
- Impartation of His Spirit

Respond with praise

- See again the Eph 1:3 - *Blessed be*
- When we consider all that he's done for us - we should rejoice and praise
- **Note:** How much more on communion Sunday
- **Homework** Read through Psalm 145 - and focus on the call to worship contained therein

Reciprocate with forgiveness

- Seems disconnected - but these blessings flow from His grace
- I want us to extend that grace to others today
- The best worship is obedience! And we are called to forgive
- I added this whole section to the message this morning
- As I prayed about it, I felt like this may be the barrier that's keeping us back!
- How can we be forgiven if we won't forgive?
- How can we worship in Spirit and in truth if we don't love one another?
- It may be your spouse, your kids, your employer, etc. if we're carrying around unforgiveness in our hearts our worship is hollow
- Consider Peter's question and Jesus's response: [Matt 18:21-22](#) (ESV) (21) *Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?"* (22) *Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.*

Tom's special

Tom is going to sing *there is a fountain*

Communion

Before we receive

This morning before we come to the Lord's table, I feel very strongly we need to apply the message in the obedience of forgiveness

When you stand praying forgive

- in a moment we'll receive communion, and reflect on the fullness of His grace to us
- before we do, we're giving to practice that last application: to forgive
- reflect on who has done you wrong.
- release them
- **Mark 11:25** (ESV) (25) *And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."*

Leave your gift at the altar

- if we are in the wrong, make it right
- more important than worship
- Consider **Matt 5:23-24** (ESV) (23) *So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, (24) leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.*
- So more important than communion is making things right!
- If you need to do so now... go do it!

The taking

1 Cor 11:23-26 (ESV) (23) *For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, (24) and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (25) In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." (26) For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*