

Eternity Daily Bible Study - No. 360
Series: The Primal Church - Acts Chapters 1-8
Verses: Acts 3:22-26
Topic: Blessed Through Jesus Christ
Date: 11th November 2004

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Acts 3:22-26 MKJV: For Moses truly said to the fathers, "The Lord your God shall raise up a Prophet to you from your brothers, One like me. You shall hear Him in all things, whatever He may say to you. (23) And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be destroyed from among the people." (24) And also all the prophets from Samuel and those following after, as many as spoke, have likewise foretold of these days. (25) You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, "And in your Seed shall all the kindreds (families) of the earth be blessed." (26) Having raised up His son Jesus, God sent Him to you first, to bless you in turning every one of you away from his iniquities.

Jesus Christ is the gateway to blessing: "And in your Seed shall all the kindreds (families) of the earth be blessed." Or, as Ephesians confirms:

Ephesians 1:3 MKJV Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ;

And Galatians likewise says that our curses are ended and our blessings abound through Christ:

Galatians 3:7-16,29 MKJV Therefore know that those of faith, these are the sons of Abraham. (8) And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the nations through faith, preached the gospel before to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all nations be blessed." (9) So then those of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. (10) For as many as are out of works of the Law, these are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the Book of the Law, to do them." (11) But that no one is justified by the Law in the sight of God is clear, for, "The just shall live by faith." (12) But the Law is not of faith; but, "The man who does these things shall live in them." (13) Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, being made a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone having been hanged on a tree"); (14) so that the blessing of Abraham might be to the nations in Jesus Christ, and that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. (15) Brothers, I speak according to man, a covenant having been ratified, even among mankind, no one sets aside or adds to it. (16) And to Abraham and to his Seed the promises were spoken. It does not say, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, "And to your Seed," which is Christ...(29) And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise.

I met a Christian group yesterday that seemed to be "all obligation. They carried around a list of 111 commandments of Jesus, which they read every day. They lived

simply and with much sincerity but they did not seem to be blessed, happy, peaceful or relaxed. Jesus brings us out of Law and burdensome religion and into blessing and power and peace and joy.

Jesus is meek and lowly and His way is easy:

Matthew 11:28-30 MKJV Come to Me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take My yoke on you and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you shall find rest to your souls. (30) For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.

And His commandments are not burdensome:

1 John 5:3 MKJV For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not burdensome.

Jesus blesses us first of all by offering us the gift of repentance: “to bless you in turning every one of you away from his iniquities.” To be free from sin and from wrath is the very first step in being blessed. You cannot be blessed while you carry the weight of iniquity. Christ also redeems us from the curse of the Law (Galatians 3:10-14).

The next great blessing is the gift of the promised Holy Spirit: Galatians 3:14 “so that the blessing of Abraham might be to the nations in Jesus Christ, and that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” The blessing of Abraham is the Holy Spirit that was upon Abraham’s life and which enabled communication with God in friendship and blessing.

Finally there are the multitudes of blessings in the spiritual realms that become ours in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 1:3) so that all the promises of God are Yea and Amen in Him. (2 Corinthians 1:20) These include answered prayer (Mark 11:24) and material provision (Matthew 6:33). Above all there are the blessings of grace, peace, joy, wisdom and spiritual growth that are mentioned so often in the epistles (e.g. James 1:5-8, Ephesians 3:14-21).

Christ is the gateway to blessings and Christians are meant to be a totally blessed people. The Christian life is not all sacrifice and obligation – it is also righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 14:17)

Peter proclaimed that the blessing comes with the following: "The Lord your God shall raise up a Prophet to you from your brothers, One like me. You shall hear Him in all things, whatever He may say to you. (23) And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be destroyed from among the people.

If we follow Christ closely in genuine discipleship in the Spirit we will know true blessing. I do not mean that we will become wealthy (for in some quarters blessing only equates to finances) – but that your life will be truly meaningful and full of love, joy and peace. On the other hand if we “will not hear that Prophet” we end up cut off from grace (Galatians 5:1-11).

The Christian life is the only pathway to lasting blessing and those blessings are found only in Christ. The allure of the world is intense, but its "blessings" pass away - while those who do the will of God abide forever. (1 John 2:15-17)

Blessings,

John Edmiston

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