

Resurrection Blessings.

1 Peter 1:3-5.

Sunday, April 24, 2011.

I. A Blessed God.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...”

- A. We often think of being blessed as being in a privileged state or standing in relation to God. This is not the meaning of the word here.
- B. The Greek word is “Eulogetos” taken from the verb “Eulogeo” which means “to speak well of...” We get the English word “eulogy” from this Greek word which is a short address speaking well of a person that has died.
- C. The sense is then, let God be praised, or let God be held in high esteem, let God be well spoken of.

Application:

How do you speak of God; do you speak of Him at all? A more basic question would be, how or what do you think of God, for the mouth speaks what the heart thinks.

Do you think and speak of God in terms of “I hope, or I wish...?”

Do you think and speak of Him with a certain fear, a dread, an apprehension, keeping yourself at arms length from Him?

Our text invites us to enter into a new reality which enables us to genuinely praise and speak well of God. But what is this new reality? Peter explains...

II. Abundant Mercy.

“...Who according to His abundant mercy...”

Two things God has secured for us in great abundance through the redemptive work of Christ. It is His mercy and His grace.

Our text only mentions His mercy, yet we might best understand the meaning of mercy by laying it alongside God’s grace, comparing the two.

- A. - God’s Grace gives undeserved blessing to a guilty humanity.
- God’s mercy freely bestows God’s compassion on a helpless humanity.
- B. - God’s grace is God’s Fatherly disposition toward the lawbreaker and rebel.
- God’s mercy is His Fatherly disposition toward those in distress.
- C. - God’s grace gives us what we do not deserve.
- God’s mercy is His not giving us what we do deserve.

In Christ, God has come alongside us in our helplessness and our distress; in our ignorance, our backwardness and our suspicion of His intention. And He has come alongside us with good and gracious things.

Application:

Remember when the Lord comes knocking on your door, He does not come like your landlord, collecting the rent, when you have nothing to give Him.

Rather He comes like Publishers Clearing House announcing, not that you have won a large sum of money landing you on easy street, but that an abundance of grace and mercy have been won for you by the undertakings of the Lord Jesus Christ in your behalf. Yet we ask: What does that abundance of grace and mercy do for us?

III. A New Standing, and a New Life.

“...has begotten us again ...”

- A. “Begotten us again...” looks back to a time when the Lord begot us for the first time. That was the time when the very life principle in man was that of fellowship with God, and living in the very shadow of God’s presence. Undisturbed peace and tranquility, harmony and beauty, joy, inward contentment and fulfillment governed the whole of life then.
- B. Yet all that was lost when man chose to step outside the shadow of God’s presence; when he chose to be wiser than God and find his own way in life. All manner of evil, heartache, sorrow and suffering have filled this world ever since man as the ruler of the created order chose to go his own way in life.
- C. “Begotten us again...” looks to the new day where God has undertaken for us in Christ, and where, for the sake of Christ, He forgives us all our iniquities, and invites us back as it were, into the very shadow of His own presence, which is a presence with an abundance of mercy and grace. It is a restored fellowship between God and man. It is a new standing and a new life.

Application:

This is what we renew at the Lord’s table. We once again bring our lives under the shadow of the wings of God’s presence. We once again commit to taking our very life principle from the gracious and merciful presence of God alone. The elements on the table represent the abundance of grace and mercy purchased for us. As sharing a meal is a fellowship activity, so we draw near in fellowship to God.

Yet why is this renewed fellowship with God called “a living hope?”

IV. A Living Hope.

“...to a living hope...” We observe three reasons:

- A. It is a hope because it is not a fully attained reality yet. We still live in a fallen world and carry as yet our fallen natures with us. Yet hope will become reality. Of this completion verse 5 speaks to us.
- B. It is called a living hope because the living and life giving Holy Spirit of God has been given to us as a down payment of the full inheritance of a restored life.
- C. Finally, it is called a living hope because it is a work begun, sustained, and completed by the living, risen and reigning Lord Jesus Christ. See Vs. 5 on this.

V. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

“...through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

Here is the source of that abundance of mercy and grace, and of that new standing and new life in the very shadow of God’s presence. It is none other than the living Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

Yes it is Easter; the resurrection morning has come. Why seek the living among the dead; He is not here for He is risen as He said.

Like the women that morning and the disciples that night, Jesus would meet us at His table saying “Peace to you,” or “abundant mercy and grace to you.” Even to rebels!

One question remains: Will you receive it with a right heart and to a right end? Will you take your rightful place before your Creator and Redeemer?