

Christ: The Conduit of Blessing

By Pastor Alex

Imagine a giddy gentleman reclining in the back of his carriage in the manner that a man who has just learned that he is the heir to a massive estate would recline, feet up with his hands tucked behind his head. Imagine this gentleman has learned that a rich relative has passed and has left his entire estate to him and he is now en route to the city to lay claim to the riches that have been freshly pressed in his name. Can you imagine the excitement that you would be feeling if you were that man?¹

The Apostle Paul doesn't tell us that we are exactly like this man; he tells us our situation is vastly grander than the situation of this man. Notice how Paul describes the state of those who belong to Jesus Christ:

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."²

As nice as money is, it isn't worth comparing to the vast wealth that is found in Jesus Christ. Paul states elsewhere that *"for no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ."³* This means that you and I, who have been joined to Christ by the unconditional choice of God through faith in His Son's sacrifice for us, are hilariously, mind-numbingly rich and blessed beyond the wildest imaginations that we have only in our dreams!

Here are some implications from this wonderful verse found in Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

- **Christ is the conduit of all the blessings of God.**

There are two truths wrapped up in this singular implication. The first is that Christ is the river by which all of the blessings of God flow to us. God cannot bless one in this covenantal fashion, unless they are in Christ. The second truth is that there is no blessing of God given that isn't inherently tied to union with His Son, they are *all* "Yes" in Christ Jesus. All who are in Christ receive all of the blessings that God has given to His covenantal people.

- **There is no distinction between members of the covenant community of God.**

The previous implication leads into this one nicely. Because each member united to Christ receives all the blessings that God gives, there are no tiered members of God's kingdom. Status in the kingdom is not determined on race, gender, nationality, social status, or anything else.⁴ If you are in Christ, you are an equal sharer in the inheritance of God with the rest of the saints.

- **Our relationship with the Father is determined by our relationship with Christ.**

This means that our standing before God isn't dependent on your emotions, your actions, the ferocity of your faith, or the peace of your soul. Our standing before God depends on our relationship with His Son. If we are in Christ, our relationship before God is one of unbridled acceptance.

Where does this leave us now as we await our Savior to return to us? Allow me to return to our friend in the carriage on the road to riches. As with our own lives and the trials we face, he experiences some difficulty with his carriage one mile outside of his destination and must proceed on foot. He can do so one of two ways. He can do so forgetting and enduring the minor inconvenience life has tossed his way. Or, and I find myself often reverting to this rebellious option, he can gripe and grumble all the way to town. I have to imagine that if you or I were with him on the road that day, listening to his childish complaints, we would be utterly astounded at how shortsighted and dense he was acting! What is a broken carriage when compared to the riches he was inheriting in one short mile? What are these minor trials we experience in life when unimaginable riches await us on the other side of heaven?

Brothers and Sisters, let our response, when temporary inconveniences assail us, be in this manner.

"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."⁵

And let us respond in faith by joyously trotting down the road to the blessings we have been given in Christ, praise be to the name of God.

¹ This illustration is original with John Newton. I have formatted it to fit my purposes with this article.

² Ephesians 1:3

³ 2 Corinthians 1:20

⁴ For more on this, see Galatians 3:27-29.

⁵ Romans 8:18