

“All Spiritual Blessings”
(Romans 8:29-30)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. We’ve considered communion with God – how you should walk with Him from the time you get up, to the time you go to sleep, from the day of your conversion to the day of your death.
2. We’ve considered how you are to walk with God – how you must walk in the light, where He is, in accordance to His commandments in obedience to His will.
3. And we’ve considered something of the incentives the Lord gives you to motivate you to walk in the light – He will give you every material blessing to sustain you, to preserve your life – food, clothing, shelter, health, strength, and protection.

B. Preview.

1. There is still another whole area of blessings that are infinitely more precious that He sets out in front of you to motivate you to walk with Him – the spiritual blessings.
 - a. Up to this point, just about anyone would be willing to receive what the Lord promises, believer and unbeliever alike.
 - b. But here is where we will, for the most part, part company with the unbeliever.
 - c. They won’t be interested in these blessings, because they are holy in nature, and unbelievers don’t want holiness.
2. Just as we started looking at the physical blessings with a broad stroke before we descended into the details, we’ll do the same here.
 - a. Our text gives us several of these blessings: being foreknown, predestined, called, justified and glorified, to which, we’ll add a few more.
 - b. But this is what we’ll want to see: if you walk with the Lord in the light of His holiness from the heart, having trusted in Jesus, you can know that all of these blessings are also yours.
3. This evening, we’re going to look at the blessings that have to do with your salvation, or what is commonly referred to as the order of salvation.
 - a. We’ll look first at the blessings the Lord has given you from eternity to the present.
 - b. Then second, we’ll consider the blessings that He has promised to give you in the future.

II. Sermon.

- A. First, if you are walking with the Lord, you already have blessings that reach from eternity to the present. I’m just going to deal with these foundational blessings briefly, and in the weeks ahead, we’ll unpack each and then look at the many promised blessings that flow from them.

1. The first blessing is that of being foreknown.
 - a. Paul writes in our text, “For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined . . .” (v. 29).
 - (i) The word “foreknowledge” can mean to know something beforehand. But it can also mean more than that.
 - (ii) In Genesis 4:1, in the King James version of the Bible, we read, “And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.”
 - (a) Obviously, more was going on in this passage than merely Adam’s getting to know Eve.
 - (b) Adam loved her, and in the intimacy of marriage, she conceived Cain.
 - b. In a similar way, God’s foreknowing you is foreloving you.
 - (i) He loved you in His Son before He made the world – in eternity.
 - (ii) And He determined you would be His own.
 - (iii) Those of an Arminian persuasion would tell you that this has to do with God’s foreknowing what you would do – whether or not you would receive His Son.
 - (iv) But notice, it’s not what God foreknew, it’s whom He foreknew.
 - (v) He foreknew you – He loved you – in eternity, if you are walking with Him this evening.
2. The second blessing is predestination, “For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren” (v. 29).
 - a. Foreloving you, He purposed in eternity not to let you perish in your sins.
 - b. Rather, He planned to send His Son into the world to live for you, to die for you, to be raised again to life for you, and to intercede for you.
 - c. He determined He would give you His grace, which would lead you to trust in His Son, that you might have His life and so gain heaven.
 - d. And He purposed by the Spirit of His Son, that He would transform you into His own holy image.
 - e. This magnitude of this blessing is seen all the more clearly when you consider what the Lord determined to do with those He hadn’t foreloved:
 - (i) He made them vessels of wrath prepared for destruction – He will give them what they deserve for their sins.
 - (ii) He will give them what you also deserve, but for His grace.
 - (iii) If you are walking with the Lord from the heart, you can know that the Lord has predestined you to become like His Son.
3. The third blessing is effectual calling, “And these whom He predestined, He also called” (v. 30).
 - a. When it was the Lord’s perfect time, He brought the Gospel to you, and with the Gospel, the work of the Spirit to give you the ability to trust in His Son.
 - (i) The Gospel is how the Lord calls outwardly; the Spirit, how He calls inwardly to make the outer call effective.

- (ii) We also call this word regeneration or the new birth.
 - (iii) The Spirit is the One who brings it about by uniting us with Christ in a vital union, so that His life flows through us.
- b. He united you with His Son; He raised you from spiritual death; He made you alive; caused you to be born again, so that you might believe and turn from your sins.
 - c. This is the reason you are now walking with the Lord.
4. The fourth blessing is justification, “And these whom He called, He also justified” (v. 30).
- a. When you believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, when you placed your whole hope of heaven on Him, you were united with Him judicially – He took away your sins and gave you His righteousness as a free gift.
 - b. On the basis of this perfection you now had, God declared you to be what you were then in fact: righteous, or just.
 - c. This is justification: God’s declaration that you are not guilty, but worthy to enter into heaven.
 - (i) You were freed from any liability to God’s justice – from eternal punishment.
 - (ii) And now you are fit to enter into heaven to enjoy those blessings forever.
 - (iii) This is true of you, if you are walking with the Lord.
5. The fifth blessing is adoption.
- a. Once you were declared just, the Lord adopted you – He took you into His family as His son or daughter.
 - (i) Paul writes in Galatians, “But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons” (4:4-5).
 - (ii) He writes in Ephesians, “He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved” (1:5-6).
 - b. He also gave you the Spirit of adoption, not only to convince you that you are His child, but to begin that transformation into His image that proves you are His child.
 - (i) Again, Paul writes in Galatians, “Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’” (4:6).
 - (ii) And in Romans, “For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons . . . The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God” (8:15-16).
 - (iii) This is true of you, if you are walking with the Lord.
6. The sixth and final blessing from eternity to the present is sanctification. Paul writes, “But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from

God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, ‘LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD’” (1 Cor. 1:30-31).

- a. Because the Lord gave you His righteousness as a free gift, you are already perfect in His eyes – When He looks at you, He sees no faults, just the perfection of His Son.
 - b. But He also gave you His Spirit to break the power of sin in your heart and to transform you into the image of Jesus.
 - c. This is what Paul points to as the reason for all these blessings – that you might become like Him, “For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren” (v. 29).
 - d. This shows you again the truth of what you saw this morning: Jesus said, “For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother” (Mark 3:35).
7. And so, if you are walking with the Lord from your heart, you can know that these infinitely precious blessings are yours.
- a. You can know that you have been loved by God from all eternity.
 - b. That He has predestined you to become like His Son.
 - c. That He raised you from spiritual death to life.
 - d. That He has declared you not guilty, but worthy to inherit heaven.
 - e. That you are now a child of God and will be for all eternity.
 - f. And that He is now working in you to make you more and more like His Son Jesus Christ.
 - g. But there is more.
- B. Second, if you are walking with the Lord, you have blessings that are promised in the future.
1. First, you have the promise that the work He began of making you holy will be completed. Paul writes, “*For I am* confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus” (Phil. 1:6).
 - a. You will one day become perfect.
 - (i) You will no longer want to sin.
 - (ii) You will only want to do those things that you know God approves of and that honor Him.
 - b. It won’t happen in this life.
 - (i) In this life there will always be the struggle between the flesh and the Spirit (Gal. 5:17).
 - (ii) But when you are finally with the Lord, that struggle will be over.
 2. Second, you have the promise that you will be glorified, “And these whom He justified, He also glorified” (Rom. 8:30).
 - a. Just as Jesus was transfigured and transformed and glorified with the glory He had with His Father before the world was, so you will be transformed into His image when He comes to raise the dead.

- b. Paul writes, “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself” (Phil. 3:20-21).
3. Finally, it’s also at this time that Jesus will renovate the old creation and make all things new again, and you will inherit the new heavens and the new earth.
 - a. He will bring in an everlasting world where there will be no more sickness, death, grief or tears, but only perfect joy and happiness.
 - b. John writes, “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away’” (Rev. 21:1-4).
 - c. You will be a part of that city; you will inherit that world of perfect happiness.
 4. If you are walking with the Lord in holiness – if you are obeying His will from the heart because you love Him – you can know that all these things are yours.
 - a. You can know that the love that moved the Father to send His Son into the world was meant for you.
 - b. You can know the Son came into this world to save you and to bring all these blessings down to you.
 - c. You can know that the Spirit has come and applied these blessings to you.
 - d. In other words, if you are walking with the Lord in this way, you can know you are a true believer and that everything the Lord has done, He has done for you.
 - e. You can also know that you will eventually arrive safely in heaven.
 - (i) Notice in our passage that everyone who is foreknown makes it to final glorification.
 - (ii) If you know you have just one of these blessings, you can know you have them all.
 - (iii) The one blessing by which you can know is sanctification – that you are growing more and more into the image of Jesus Christ, that you are obeying His will.
 - (iv) Let’s spend a few moments now in prayer and search our hearts to know whether that evidence is there.
 - (a) If it is, then you can know these blessings are yours.
 - (b) If it isn’t, then call out to the Lord for His grace that He might mercifully call you to Himself through Jesus. Amen.