

“The Knowledge of the Mystery Is Critical - An Abundant Life, Offered Freely - Part 2”

Theme Verse:

[READ] Rom. 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

Our Outline (the Seven Dimensions of the Mystery):

Last Time:

- ***A New Dispensation, Our Current Reality (Eph. 3:1-9)***
- ***A Better Gospel, Given for the Faith of Sinners (1 Cor. 15:1-8)***
- ***The Church Which Is One Body, Given for Our Blessing (Eph. 4:4; 5:32)***
- ***An Abundant Life, Offered Freely! (Rom. 5:17)***

Today:

- ***An Abundant Life, Offered Freely! (Rom. 5:17) - Part 2***

Next Time:

- ***The Blessed Hope & Expectation. Assured by Almighty God (Tit 2:11-14; 1 Cor. 15:51; 1 Thess. 4:15-18; 5:9-11; 2:1-3; 2:13-17)***
- ***A Heavenly Warfare, Demanding Our Constant Engagement (2 Thess. 2:6-12; 2 Tim. 4:1-4)***
- ***Every Benefit of Christ's Work on Calvary, Fully Provided (Eph. 1:3; Rom. 8:28-30)***

Review of Our Last Fellowship in God's Holy Word: An Abundant Life, Offered Freely!

- ***Eternal Life Under the Old Covenant (or the New):***
 - ***The whole idea of life everlasting or eternal life is a most blessed one. It was always promised for the elect of God but was intimately related to the dispensational plan of God that was in effect. See for example Matt. 25:46: “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.” It was promised by our Lord under the preaching of the coming Kingdom to those that had kept the Law: Mark 10:17-22, 28-30***
 - ***The emphasis here seems to be on the “unending” or “without end”***

characteristic of this new life. The blessings or the curses are said here to be “never ending”. Their exact details are also usually not mentioned although the “blessings” and the “curses” or “torments” are sometimes mentioned as in Mt. 24:50-51 & chapter 25.

- ***Eternal Life Under Grace - A Centerpiece of the Pauline Revelation:***

- *But there is a great contrast here with our current possession of eternal life under grace where the emphasis is on quality, not duration, although the duration is clearly intended to be eternal or without end as well.*
- *Paul often refers to “life” (nearly 50 times in his letters). A word study on “life” is most instructive and a great blessing for all those who do it. This life we now have is of course the very resurrection life of our Lord Jesus and the life that we all have through his complete sacrifice and glorious resurrection:*

- ***Eternal Life Under Grace - A New and Heavenly Quality of Life We Already Possess.***

- *The term “life everlasting” relates to the quality of life which we have here and now. Its potential is eternal (rewards at the judgment seat of Christ?) but its present reality is a fact every believer today knows very much about.*
- *Paul often refers to this quality of life as “eternal” or “everlasting” and although the word “hope” is often used of it (Tit. 1:2, 3:7), it is also very clear that we have it already today, at least a “down payment” as it were:*

Rom. 6:22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, **and the end everlasting life.**

- *So it is clear that this eternal life or everlasting life is a continuum into which we enter at the point of saving faith:*

- ***Eternal Life Under Grace - Something to Be Grasped Onto Fully Now:***

1 Tim. 6:12, 15-16, 19

12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

...

19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to

come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

- ***So there is a present reality to this new quality of life (“newness of life” - Rom. 6:4) but the enduring and never ending essence of this life is quite clear in all of these scriptures. So this is a most sobering subject indeed. Life eternal: possessed now but with ongoing and profoundly also eternal ramifications. Considering the judgment seat of Christ and what Paul writes of that in (Rom. 14:10; 1 Cor. 3:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:10):***
- ***But since it is the quality of this life and since it is a life that believers already possess, and that is not merely promised for the future, many questions spring to mind regarding its details.***

Since our lives here in this world are far from easy and far from the blessedness often written of in scripture with much suffering and many trials in this life common to man, we surely need encouragement through these truths. Today we shall see some of the details pertaining to this eternal life and its glorious presence and power.

Our Theme Today: An Abundant Life, Offered Freely! (Rom. 5:17) - Part 2

I. There is a Triune Indwelling of God Today: Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

- ***The indwelling of the Father: We are the Sons of God and have His nature:***

2 Cor. 6:14-18

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in [them]; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. [ref. primarily Lev. 26:12 & Ez. 37:27]

17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean [thing]; and I will receive you,

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

- ***There are many verses that speak of this new nature in contrast to the old nature that we are all born with, for example including Gal. 5***

and these:

Eph. 4:22-24

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Col. 3:9-10

9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

10 And have put on the new [man], which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

- ***The indwelling of the Holy Spirit: (Rom. 8, Eph. 1, 1 Cor. 3)***

Rom. 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Eph. 1:12-14

12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

13 In whom ye also [trusted], after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

1 Cor. 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and [that] the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

- ***The indwelling of the Holy Spirit in each believer is a central teaching of the apostle. The ministry and work of the third person of the Trinity in the believer is a unique Pauline teaching and one that is often much misunderstood. But it is not our central teaching today and we shall go on to the indwelling of the second person of the Trinity, our Lord Jesus Christ himself.***

II. *The Indwelling of the Son is Unique Under Grace and Most Precious and Powerful!*

- ***The contrast between the saved and the unsaved:***

Rom. 8:1-6

1 [There is] therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2 For **the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus** hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, **who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**

5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but **they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.**

6 For to be carnally minded [is] death; but to be spiritually minded [is] life and peace.

- ***The contrast between the saved and the unsaved (continued):***

Rom. 8:7-9

7 Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. [This is a most important verse for the indwelling of the Son and the Spirit of God]

- ***The indwelling triune God shall lead us into glory!***

Rom. 8:10-14

10 And **if Christ [be] in you**, the body [is] dead because of sin; but the Spirit [is] life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. **[as in Gal. 2:20]**

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Rom. 8:15-18

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with [him], that we may be also glorified together.

18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time [are] not worthy [to be compared] with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

- *These verses are key. We find here three “co-’s” or “joints”, co-heirs, co-sufferers, co-glorified, or heirs together, sufferers together and glorified together.*
- *Indeed, as we must conclude from these verses, the indwelling triune God is our constant blessing today under grace and the indwelling Son as we read here shall lead us into glory!*

III. The Riches of the Glory of the Mystery Is Focused On His Indwelling:

- *The central and foundational verse for this teaching of the apostle is in 1 Cor. 15:*

[READ] 1 Cor. 15:45: And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam [was made] a quickening spirit.

- *Christ was raised from the dead as a “life-giving spirit”. This is most wonderful. Rom. 1:1-4 has a complementary list of details.*
- *In Colossians chapter 1 Paul makes a strong and yet simple statement of Christ’s indwelling in this way:*

Col. 1:26-29

26 [Even] the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

27 To whom God would make known what [is] the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

- *This is most glorious indeed and written probably during the last part of his life, after many trials and sufferings. But earlier, in 2 Corinthians, Paul makes it all so practical and in equally powerful ways:*

[READ] 2 Cor. 4:6-14

6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

8 [We are] troubled on every side, yet not distressed; [we are] perplexed, but not in despair;

9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

11 For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

12 So then death worketh in us, but life in you.

13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;

14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present [us] with you.

- ***Verses 11-12 contain the most wonderful summary of what grace is all about today. May it be written on our hearts never to be forgotten. There is no greater statement in scripture regarding what God is doing today under grace than this. May it be written on our hearts and never forgotten:***
 - ***“We which live”:*** *I am thinking that this is not a reference to all believers but a limited statement concerning those believers who are gladly receiving the abundance of God’s grace. Paul himself is of course our example here. See verses 8 & 9.*
 - ***“Always delivered unto death for Jesus sake ...”:*** *This is what is really happening, if you open the curtain, as it were, to see behind the scenes. That is the realm in which God is working. His purposes (and all in the sphere of his perfect love always) are to deliver us to death SO THAT HIS LIFE MAY BE MADE MANIFEST . . .*
 - ***“That the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh ...”:*** *This reminds me of verse 7 regarding the “excellency of the power”. We cannot know of it any other way. Rejoice, beloved, God is working through your “earthen vessel”, your “clay pot”!! Amen and amen.*
 - ***“Death worketh in us but life in you.”:*** *The apostle of the*

Gentiles is your example and my example, even our archetype!

- ***What greater words are there that have ever been written regarding God's working in his people under the fulness of his grace? Well, how about these . . .***

[READ] 2 Cor. 4:15-18

15 For all things [are] for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward [man] is renewed day by day.

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding [and] eternal weight of glory;

18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen [are] temporal; but the things which are not seen [are] eternal.

- ***In these verses is the encouragement we all need every day. Again the apostle here writes how "death worketh but life abounds", even eternal life, the life of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ.***
- ***The suffering of this present time are "nothing to be compared with the glory that shall follow" in God's good time.***

Conclusions / Exhortation:

- ***Being identified with Christ in his death, his burial and his resurrection is at the center of what God is doing today under grace. We are crucified with Christ. We are buried with him. We are risen indeed with him. Amen and amen. Does this message of his outworking grace in and through us saints thrill your heart and your soul moment by moment? May it indeed as we gladly receive his poured out grace abundantly and freely.***
- ***So consider yourself and your own circumstances well. Ask the question if you would. What is God doing today in my life. The answer to that question is clearly given in the verses we have considered today. Praise God for his unspeakable gift! Amen.***

Gal. 2:19-21

19 For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness [come] by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.