Blessings Of Righteousness

Intro: 2 Pet. 1:4-11 “4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” Our discussion will center around verse 4, and 11. We must become as our God. A partaker of His divine nature.

1. We must become Godly, 2 Pet. 1:6 “6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;” We must become like God.

2. One of God’s characteristics is righteousness; Psa. 145:17 “17 The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.”

3. How we become righteous.
   a. We must do righteousness; 1 John 3:7 “7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.”
   b. God’s righteousness is manifest in His commands; Psa. 119:172 “172 My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.”
   c. God’s righteousness is manifest in the gospel of His Son; Rom. 1:16-17 “16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

4. Therefore, to become righteous we must do God’s commands; we must do or obey the gospel of His Son.

5. Now let us notice some of the blessings of a righteous life.

I. Blessings Of Righteousness To The Nation.
   A. Pro. 14:34 “34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”
   B. The New Testament applies this to the church.
      1. 1 Pet. 2:9 “9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;”
      2. What was applied to Israel is in the New Testament applied to the church.
         a. Righteousness will exalt that nation. (If we want the church here to grow and prosper we have to live righteous lives.)
         b. We are going to have to do God’s commands.
   C. This is not only true in regard to the church but to the temporal nations as well.
      1. When Rome’s morals fell, Rome as a nation fell.
      2. Our own nation should take heed.
         a. 1 Tim. 2:9 “9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;”
b. 1 Pet. 3:3-4 “3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”

II. Blessings Of Righteousness To Others.

A. Abraham blessed the entire world because he was righteous by faith; Rom. 4:3, 13 “3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness… 13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.”

   a. told to leave his native land and go to a land promised him.
   b. offer up Isaac.
   c. By faith Abraham kept God’s law and His commands.
2. The children of God today are spoken of as the children of Abraham. Gal. 3:
3. When we as Abraham keep God’s commands we shall be a blessing to others.

B. Preaching the gospel to the world.

1. The great commission;
   a. Mat. 28:18-20 “18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
   b. Mark 16:15-16 “15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
   c. Luke 24:46-47 “46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”
   d. Acts 1:6-8 “6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? 7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. 8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (take Matthew’s account)
2. That is why you find the church going out preaching. Acts 8:4 “4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.”
3. 2 Tim. 2:2 “2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”
4. 1 Pet. 3:15 “15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”
5. Like Jeremiah in Jer. 20:9 “9 Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.”
6. Poem or Song.
“When in the better land, before the bar we stand, how deeply grieved our souls will be if any lost one there shall cry in deep despair, you never mentioned Him to me. You helped me not the light to see, you met me day by day, you knew I was astray, yet never mentioned Him to me.”

III. Blessings Of Righteousness To Self.

A. We have the right to ask what am I going to receive, 1 Cor. 15:58 

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." He says here the reason for living a righteous life is, we know we are going to be blessed by the Lord. What will we receive?

B. Necessities of life.

1. Mat. 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” in verses 24-33 he is discussing the physical necessities of life.

2. Mark 10:29-31 “And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel’s, 30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. 31 But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.”

3. Psa. 37:25 “I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.”

4. God will not forsake the righteous.

5. Even as a father provides for his home so God will provide for us. Mat. 7:11 “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”

C. Our prayers answered.

1. Jas. 5:16 “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

2. 1 Pet. 3:12 “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”

3. Isa. 59:1-2 “Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”

D. A life after death.

1. 1 Cor. 15:19, 54 “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable…. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.”

2. 2 Tim. 4:7-8 “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

3. We, as Paul, can have a crown of righteousness eternal in heaven awaiting us by the righteous God, by partaking of God’s divine nature.