

YOU HAVE BEEN FILLED BY HIM

Colossians 2:10-15

By Andy Manning

I. INTRODUCTION

1. When you are feeling discouraged, it is helpful to count your blessings. It is helpful to take time think about all of God's benefits and blessings.
2. Every morning in my quiet time I take time to write out my blessings. It keeps me encouraged. It keeps me out of dumps of depression. It keeps me from complaining and feeling sorry for myself.
3. Today, we're going to be reminded of the benefits and blessings of Christianity.

II. TEXT

1. **Colossians 2:9-15** "9 For the entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily in Christ, 10 and you have been filled by him, who is the head over every ruler and authority. 11 You were also circumcised in him with a circumcision not done with hands, by putting off the body of flesh, in the circumcision of Christ, 12 when you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive with him and forgave us all our trespasses. 14 He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it away by nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; he triumphed over them in him."
2. In verse 9 Paul says that Christ is God. The entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily in Christ.
3. In verse 10 Paul says that you have been filled by Him. The point is not that Christ lives in you, although that is true. The point is that you have been made full by Christ. You are complete in Christ. Christ has filled you with all the blessings you will ever need; all that you could ever desire and more.
4. In verses 11-15, Paul describes four of those blessings; four benefits of being a Christian.

III. 4 BENEFITS OF CHRISTIANITY

1. You are freed from the power of sin.

- i. **Colossians 2:11** "You were also circumcised in him with a circumcision not done with hands, by putting off the body of flesh, in the circumcision of Christ,"
- ii. At 8 days old, all baby Jewish boys were circumcised by the removal of the foreskin. This was meant to be an outward symbol of the inward dedication that Jews were to have to God in which they removed anything from their lives which was against God's will.
- iii. When you become a Christian, you receive the circumcision of Christ. God circumcises your heart by cutting away the body of flesh.

1. Before salvation, you were enslaved to sin. You could not not sin. You were enslaved to deliberate sins, undeliberate sins, conscious sins, and unconscious sins.
 - a. Our bodies were ruled by sin. Rm 6:6
 - b. We were slaves of sin. Rm 6:17
 - c. We offered the parts of ourselves as slaves to impurity, and to greater and greater lawlessness. Rm 6:19
 - d. We were obligated to the flesh to live according to the flesh. Rm 8:12
 2. When you become a Christian, God puts away the body of flesh. He frees you from the power of sin. He gives you the ability to overcome sin and live a holy life to the glory of God.
- iv. This is called regeneration. When God saves us, He gives us the desire and the power to please Him.
1. Ezekiel 36:26-27 “26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will place my Spirit within you and cause you to follow my statutes and carefully observe my ordinances.”
 2. Romans 8:12 “So then, brothers and sisters, we are not obligated to the flesh to live according to the flesh”
 3. 2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!”
 4. 2 Corinthians 5:15 “And he died so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died for them and was raised.”
- v. In Christ...
1. You can overcome any sinful habit or addiction.
 2. You do not have to commit deliberate sins. You do not have to commit willful sins. You do not have to live in rebellion. You can say no to sin and yes to God.
 3. You can gradually overcome undeliberate sins, such as a bad temper, a negative attitude, a dirty mouth, and selfish decisions.
- vi. This is wonderful news because...
1. Sin separates us from God. You cannot be intimate God if you are into sin (Psalm 15).
 2. Sin grieves the indwelling Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30). Why grieve the very one who wants to give you joy?
 3. Sin leads to sorrow – a guilty conscious; shame; regret; fear (Pr 12:21).
 4. Sin destroys our relationships (Pr 14:11). Sin is alienating. How many marriages, families, friendships, and churches have been destroyed by sin?
 5. Sin destroys our health (Ps 32:10; Pr 10:27).
 6. Sin steals our wealth (Pr 13:25; Pr 15:6).

7. Sin wastes our time (Pr 10:27). Any time spent on sin is wasted time.
8. Sin breaks down our community (Pr 11:10). All the problems in our country are caused by sin.
9. Sin hurts our children (Ps 37:28). Sin not only hurts you, but those who love and depend on you.
10. Sin condemns us to hell (1 Cor 6:9-10).
- vii. But in Christ, God frees us from the power of sin so that we can live in holiness, righteousness, and obedience to God.

2. You are fashioned with eternal life.

- i. **Colossians 2:12** “when you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.”
- ii. This must not be interpreted as proof of baptismal regeneration (the necessity of Baptism for salvation). This verse must be read in the context of all of Paul writings, and of the entire New Testament. The clear, overwhelming teaching of the Bible is that salvation is by faith, not by works or rituals (Jn 3:16; Acts 16:31; Eph 2:8-9). This verse must be interpreted as symbolic. Baptism is a visible symbol of an invisible reality
- iii. Baptism symbolizes two spiritual realities:
 1. The death of the old life which was enslaved to sin. This is seen in going under the water.
 2. The birth of the new life which is empowered to glorify God. This is seen in coming up out of the water. This new life is eternal life.
- iv. When you become a Christian, you are “raised with” Christ. Just as Christ was raised from the dead to live forever, so are you. God gives you eternal life.
- v. John 3:16 “For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”
- vi. Consider the glory of heaven:
 1. Hebrews 11:16 calls heaven a better country.
 2. **Thomas Watson** writes that it is a better country because there are better delights, a better home, better provisions, better society, better air to breathe in, better soil, better unity, and better employment. He writes, “It is a perfect state of bliss, which consists in the accumulation and heaping together all the precious things of which immortal souls are capable.”
 3. **1 Corinthians 2:9** “What no has seen, no ear has heard, and no human heart has conceived – God has prepared these things for those who love him.”
- vii. What’s the best thing about heaven?
 1. It is not the absence of sadness, sickness, sin, and suffering. It will be the enjoyment of God.
 2. 1 John 3:2 says that we will see Christ as he is.

3. Revelation 21:3 says that we will be with God.
 4. Revelation 22:4 says that we will see God's face.
 5. Jude 24 says that we will forever dwell in the presence of God's glory with great joy.
 6. Theologians refer to this as the beatific vision. "Beatific" means blissful, happy.
 7. Being in God's presence, and seeing His glory, will be the greatest experience of all; nothing can compare. And we will have this experience for all eternity.
- viii. **Thomas Watson** writes, "See how happy all the saints are at death! They go to a kingdom! They shall see God's face, which shines ten thousand times brighter than the sun in its meridian glory. The godly at death shall be installed into their honor, and have the crown royal set upon their head. They have in the kingdom of heaven the quintessence of all delights; they have the water of life clear as crystal; they have all aromatic perfumes; they feed on the manna of angels; they lie in Christ's bosom, that bed of spices. There is such a pleasant variety in the happiness of heaven, that after millions of years it will be as fresh and desirable as the first hour's enjoyment!"

3. You are forgiven of the penalty of sin.

- i. **Colossians 2:13-14** "13 And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive with him and forgave us all our trespasses. 14 He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it away by nailing it to the cross."
- ii. "And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh"
 1. This is a description of the state of man who is not saved. The state of man apart from Christ; outside of Christ. Dead.
 2. You are not physically dead, but spiritually dead.
 3. You are separated from God. You do not have a right relationship with the Creator.
 4. Colossians 1:21 "Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds expressed in your evil actions."
- iii. When you were spiritually dead – alienated from God, He made you alive with Him – He gave you eternal life – and forgave us all our trespasses.
- iv. "Trespasses"
 1. In the NT there are several Greek words for sin:
 2. *Hamartano* – the primary word for sin, usually translated "sin," means to miss the mark; to be in error; to be guilty of wrong.
 3. *Paraptoma* – translated here in Colossians 2:13 as trespass, or transgression, means a fault, an offense.
- v. When you become a Christian, God forgives all your trespasses; all your transgressions; all your sins.

- vi. Colossians 1:14 “In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”
- vii. What does it mean that God has forgiven us?
 - 1. Outside of Christ, we are called children of wrath. We are headed for eternal torment in hell, separated from God.
 - 2. In Christ, we are forgiven. God will not punish us in hell for our sins. God no longer treats us as His enemies, but as His children. He no longer treats us like a Judge, but like a Heavenly Father. When we sin, He will discipline us, but He will not condemn us in hell.
 - 3. Romans 8:28 “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus”
- viii. Verse 14 “He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it away by nailing it to the cross.”
 - 1. Paul uses three word-pictures to illustrate our forgiveness in Christ.
 - a. “the certificate of debt, with its obligations”
 - i. “the certificate of debt” (Gr. *cheirographon*). A Greek word that meant a note signed by the debtor acknowledging his indebtedness. It was an IOU.
 - ii. This is the third term used in the NT for sin – a debt. We see this also in the Lord’s Prayer, “And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors (Mt 6:12).” Sin is a debt in that we owe a penalty. We are obligated to pay for our sins, and the penalty is death – eternal separation from God (Rm 6:23).
 - b. “He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations.”
 - i. The Greek word “erased” is *exaleipein*. In that period of history, documents were written on papyrus, a kind of paper made from a bulrush plant, or vellum, a material made from animal skins. These materials were very expensive. The ink back then did not have acid in it, so it did not cling to the paper; it did not bite. So, to save money and paper, sometimes a scribe would take used paper that had already been written on, and he would use a sponge and erase the writing so that the paper was completely clean as if it had never been used. That’s what happens when you become a Christian. God forgives your sins against Him so that it is as if you had never sinned.
 - c. “and has taken it away by nailing it to the cross.”
 - i. To nail something to the cross is to kill it.
 - ii. When you become a Christian, God took our certificate of debt, the list of all our sins, and He nailed it to the cross, destroying it. The record of our sins has been forever destroyed. Our position before God as sinners

under wrath has been forever changed. We are forgiven.

4. You are fortified from Satan's dominion.

- i. **Colossians 2:15** "He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; he triumphed over them in him."
- ii. The rulers and authorities are the different ranks of evil spirits; a demonic hierarchy.
- iii. Before you become a Christian, you are under Satan's dominion. You are under His control.
 1. You are a child of the devil. John 8:44
 2. You are under the power of Satan. Acts 26:18
 3. You lived according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient. Eph 2:1-2
 4. The devil has taken you captive to do his will. 2 Tim2:25-26
 5. The whole world is under the sway of the evil one. 1 Jn 5:19
- iv. What does the devil do to those who are under his sway?
 1. He leads unbelievers to do evil things.
 - a. He caused Judas to betray Jesus. Jn 13:27
 2. He leads unbelievers to hurt others.
 - a. The devil led evil men to kill all of Job's servants but one, and to steal all of his property. Job 1:17
 3. He causes mental disorders.
 - a. A demon-possessed man had not worn clothes or lived in a house for a long time; the demon drove him out to live among the tombs. He would cry out day and night. Lk 8:26-29
 4. He causes physical illness and suffering.
 - a. A demon would throw a boy onto the ground, to foam at the mouth, grind his teeth, become rigid, and roll around. On multiple occasions a demon threw a little boy into the fire and into the water to kill him. Mk 9:18-22
 5. He causes unbelievers to hurt themselves.
 - a. A demon caused a man to cut himself with sharp stones. Mk 5:5
- v. Without Christ, the devil can do all of this and more to you. He can do whatever he wants with you. You are under his tyranny.
- vi. But when you become a Christian, God delivers you from Satan's control.
- vii. Colossians 1:13 "He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves."
- viii. John 10:10 "A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance."
 1. Satan's mission: to steal, kill, and destroy. This is what he does to people without Christ.
 2. Christ's mission: abundant life; full and meaningful life. This is what God gives to Christians.

IV. CONCLUSION

1. Oh, the blessing and benefits of being a Christian. It is truly an abundant life. We have paradise now, because Jesus lives in our hearts; and we have paradise to look forward to, because we have the hope of eternal life.
2. But I want to go back to verse 12 for just a moment. Because I want to point out the one condition that must be met to inherit all these benefits.
3. **Colossians 2:12** “when you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.”
4. The one condition is faith. All of God’s benefits are available to anyone who will put their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and King. Acts 16:31 “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved....” This faith involves three things:
 - i. Deny self-rule. Repent of your sins and hand the steering wheel of your life over to Jesus Christ. You cannot ask God to forgive your sins if you refuse to relinquish your sins.
 - ii. Deny self-righteousness. Admit that you are a sinner, and that you can’t save yourself. You do not deserve heaven. You deserve hell. Romans 3:23 says that all have sinned. Romans 6:23 says that the wages of sin is death.
 - iii. Cling to Christ. Run to Christ for salvation. Call on Him to save you. To be your Savior and King. To forgive you. To change you. To cleanse you. Put your faith in His death for your sins; in His resurrection; in His deity.