

Who Are We Bringing With Us?

People Are Watching:

Exodus 12:31-51 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Philippians 2:9-11

- ▶ One way or another **God** will be seen as **God**.
 - ✓ We can either choose **humility**, or choose to be **humbled**.
- ▶ We are commanded to give thanks **IN everything**, not **FOR everything**.

Facing The Facts:

Exodus 12:37-50 John 5:18 8:58-59 10:30-38 12:45 14:7-10 16:15 17:11-22

Matthew 5:17-44 Mark 13:31 John 5:17-18 6:63 8:51-52 10:19-33 14:23-24

Matthew 8:27 28:18 Mark 1:27 John 5:27 Matthew 7:21-23 Luke 12:8-9 John 3:14-19 5:22-27 6:40 & 51 8:12 10:7-21 14:6

Mark 2:5-12 Luke 5:20-24

Son Of Man = Daniel 7:13-14

- ▶ The only way we will ever see **Heaven** is through **Jesus**.
- ▶ We can't be a part of God's **family** until we are **adopted**.
- ▶ We are **saved** to **save** others, and **blessed** to **bless** others.

Something To Think About:

- ▶ "I fear for the salvation of **anyone**, who doesn't fear for the salvation of **someone**."

Growth Group Homework

For the week of February 7, 2016

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. For many of us, there are several key people who've helped us come into a relationship with Jesus. Which people have played a significant role in you becoming a Christian and/or getting to the point in your faith that you're at today?

2. As Chris pointed out in the story of Corrie ten Boom, it can be hard to thank and praise God in the midst of difficult circumstances. Can you think of any instances in your life where something appeared to be negative but ended up being a blessing?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. With so many people in the world, it can be easy to become numb to Chris' point that we are "saved to save others." While most of us want to seek out and help those who don't know Jesus, it can be hard to do when we're immersed and sometimes overwhelmed by the culture around us. How could the empathy shown in the following verses help us to have a better approach with those we're trying to "save"?

Ephesians 5:8 New International Version (NIV)

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

Matthew 9:36 New International Version (NIV)

³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Romans 5:6 New International Version (NIV)

⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

Colossians 1:21 New International Version (NIV)

²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

Which of these verses most inspires you to be empathetic toward others and why?

2. For most of us, the idea of being blessed by God is awesome. However, God's blessings don't always align with what we'd like his blessing to be for our life. What types of blessings do you think most people would want from God? How do these align with the blessings shown in Ephesians 1:1-14?

Ephesians 1:1-14 New International Version (NIV)

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:

² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise for Spiritual Blessings in Christ

³ 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. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

What example does Ephesians 1:15-23 give as to how we can pray for others to be blessed?

Ephesians 1:15-23 New International Version (NIV)

Thanksgiving and Prayer

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Is there one verse that catches your attention more than the others?

3. While most of us won't ever go through situations like Corrie ten Boom did, there are still many of us struggling to make sense of hard times. Think back to a trying situation in the last year or two. How could the following verses change your perspective or improve your outlook on any hard circumstances?

James 1:12 New International Version (NIV)

¹² Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

1 Peter 4:12 New International Version (NIV)

Suffering for Being a Christian

¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

John 16:33 New International Version (NIV)

³³ "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Romans 12:12 New International Version (NIV)

¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

After reading the verses above, how would you summarize the potential outcome of trials in your life?

TAKING IT HOME

Considering the point "we are saved to save others", are there any people you want to be more intentional about sharing your faith with in the next week?

Prayer Requests:

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