

The Blessings of the Christian Life

By: Walter Wilson

Wilson:

The blessings of the Christian life are really far more than just being forgiven. In fact, forgiveness by itself would not make a person a child of God, nor bring him into the family of God, nor give him the nature of God. You can readily understand this by just thinking about your neighbor. Suppose your neighbor does really hurt you some way, does something that's really wrong to you. But you have a kind heart.

You're thoughtful and gracious. And so, as your neighbor tells you how sorry he is that he did it, you forgive him. Now, that doesn't make him a relative of yours. That doesn't bring him into your family. That doesn't make you want to live with him, nor him want to live with you.

Something deeper and sweeter and better than just forgiveness is necessary. So in this message just now, I wish to talk with you about some of the blessings that the Christian life brings. And the first one is the blessing of fellowship.

We read in John six verse thirty-five Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life. He that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. You will notice from this passage that the person of the Lord Jesus is the center of the thought coming to him, believing in him, having personal dealings with him, or, as the scripture indicates, you partake of him. I am the bread of life. He isn't talking about the communion bread.

He's talking about himself. So that all day long and every day and every waking hour, the Lord Jesus is to you all that bread should be or is to the body. And that means a very close fellowship with him. It's that sort of fellowship and sweetness that exists in the home, where there are two lovers, where the husband and the wife really love each other. They want to be with each other and see each other and serve each other all day long the husband at his work is working for her, and she at home, is planning for him. That's the ideal home, isn't it? That's the ideal marriage life. And that's what our Lord wants here. He that cometh to me, to me notice not to the church, not to the service, not to any ordinance.

He that cometh to me shall never hunger. That is, he satisfies your heart so you don't crave the stuff the world offers to give. Now, the world lives on pleasures of all kinds, and they must have them. Sometimes it's pleasure for the body, sometimes it's pleasure for the eyes, sometimes for the ears, sometimes for the feelings. But the worldly people cannot be satisfied unless they have those things which the world offers to give or rather to sell, because the world doesn't give anything.

You have to buy it and pay well for it. But when you come to the Lord Jesus, he satisfies the heart so that if you even are reduced to bread, and water for a meal. Your heart is singing, your soul is at peace, your life is at rest. If you lose all you have in a bank failure or a fire or some other sort of thing, still your heart sings. You have Christ.

Like the dear old woman said up in the attic in London when she said, I have Christ, what want I more? This, she said that she lay on the attic floor and the Queen's charity workers came to see her and asked what the Queen might do for her. And she said, you tell Her Majesty I have Christ. What want I more? And I've seen it right here in our own city.

Folks that are very poor and yet radiant in their faith, happy in their lot, trusting the blessed Lord. And if he wanted them to eat bread and water instead of T bone steaks and pumpkin pie, why, that suited them all right. And they just sang and worshiped and loved their blessed Lord. So let us remember that scripture, he that cometh to Me shall never hunger, he that believeth on Me shall never thirst. And those are the two cravings that seem to be so tremendously strong in the body.

And if we don't get those things, we become weak, weaker and weaker until finally we die. But our blessed Lord tells us that when we have Him, that situation never occurs. We belong to Him. He satisfies our hearts, he strengthens our souls and spirits. He enables us to go through the terrible trials of life and the difficulties of life and come out victorious on the other side.

What a blessed, sweet thing it is to have fellowship with Him. And we read you remember that if we walk with the Lord, we have fellowship with one another, we have fellowship with the Father, we have fellowship with the Lord Jesus, and we have fellowship with the Holy Spirit. And it's just a life of sweet, lovely fellowship when we belong to the Lord Jesus and feed on Him and fill our hearts with his truths in His Word. Now, I know from many years of experience,

publicly and privately, that most people don't have any interest in fellowship with God. They are only interested in getting their sins forgiven and getting to heaven.

Beloved, that isn't what our Lord is talking about. That isn't really salvation at all, because we need to be fixed up so we love the presence of God. We need to be fixed up so we love his person and love to be with Him and look forward with happy anticipation to the day when we shall see his face and kneel at his feet and kiss those lovely wounded feet and worship and adore the Son of God. Now, the second blessing that we get is the blessing of workmanship. We find in John four a very interesting and sweet passage beginning at verse 27, where we read this upon this came his disciples and marveled that Jesus talked with the woman.

Yet no man said, what seeketh thou that is to the woman. Or Why talkest thou with her? That was to Jesus. And by the way, let me step aside a moment from the regular thought to comment on this thing. Do you know that very few people care whether the Lord deals with souls or whether souls deal with the Lord?

Here were twelve disciples. They all belonged to the Lord. He had chosen them. They were his followers. Even though Judas was a traitor, he was in this crowd.

And when they came back and found Jesus talking with the woman of Samaria at the well, none of them cared one thing about her soul and didn't care one thing about his ministry. It says they didn't ask the woman, what seekest thou? Or why do you talk with Jesus? And none of them said to Jesus, Why do you talk with her? What are you talking about?

They didn't care. They were occupied with the bargains they found downtown at the \$0.10 store or somewhere. All twelve of them had been downtown to buy food for 13. Twelve of them buying food for 13. Think of it. And that's all they were occupied with was the things of this life, the things that satisfied their own physical needs.

They didn't care about any spiritual need here at the well. You ask your heart, do you care whether those that you meet have heard the voice of the Lord? Whether he has called them, whether they've been in contact with heaven or not? You ask your heart. Then we read that the woman left her water pot and went her way to the city and said to the man, come see a man that told me all things that ever I did.

Is not this the Christ? Then they went out of the city and came unto him. Right away when she met the Savior, she became a worker for the Savior. Look what happened to her. Look how she was changed.

Why, her whole thought before she met Him was the water pot and her own physical needs and the men back in the city that she had been consorting with. Her whole mind was on the things of this world, some essential, some nonessential. But when she met him, my how he changed her. And when she went back, she didn't tell about the water that was in the well. No. no.

She didn't tell about the scenery that was around Jacob's well. She didn't tell about the history of Jacob's well, no, she didn't. She didn't give them a talk on things that Jacob had done in his life.

No, she wasn't interested in that. She had met a man that did something to her, that made a missionary out of her.

You ask your heart whether he has done something to you that has changed you and made a missionary out of you. So you want to talk about this wonderful, great Physician who healed your soul, this wonderful, great judge who said to you, I absolve you, I forgive you, I pardon you, who said to you, come and follow me, and I will give you the bread of life, the water of life, eternal life, and a home in glory. O beloved, this workmanship is wonderful. What our Lord did to that woman, he wants to do for you. And when you meet the Savior, I mean meet Him.

I don't mean read about Him. I don't mean go through some observances, some religious ordinances, and then go and live as you please. I mean a real meeting with the living Christ, who is up there on the throne, who left the cross behind. And I'm glad God blotted it out so nobody can find it or any piece of it. He completely blotted it out because it's gone.

[skip in audio here] What to say. She didn't go to a seminary to learn what to say. She didn't study several languages in order to learn what to say. She didn't know the Hebrew of the Old Testament, and she couldn't talk in Hebrew, and I'm sure she couldn't talk in Latin nor in Greek. And these are the three great languages.

No, she didn't know a thing about that, but by what she could say about Jesus. Come see a man. Have you ever noticed, beloved, that when it's a matter of salvation, God always now, listen to

me. God always speaks in very simple, plain language. Salvation is too important to surround it with a lot of verbiage and a lot of trimmings and a lot of theology.

Salvation is the simplest thing in this world. Come see a man. That's all. She had been to see Him. She had listened to his words.

She had trusted Him. And I'm sure it didn't take 30 minutes. And you, too, right where you are, in your home, in your office, or in the car, or walking along the street, if you have a radio in your pocket, as I carry sometimes, beloved, you don't need any time at all just where you are. Trust Jesus Christ.

Listen to Him say to you, come unto me. Or listen to someone say to you, as I am saying to you right now, come see a man. A man. Why, that's what Philip said to Nathaniel, and that's what Andrew said to Peter, come see this man. That's all.

And that's all you need, beloved. For he does the saving. He's the Savior, and he does it all. The moment you trust your soul to Him, he does it and when you trust Him, he makes you a worker.

So that's the second one. Now, the third blessing we get is the blessing of scholarship. And I like that read over in Jeremiah 15 verse 16. Thy words were found, and I did eat them. And Thy word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.

I like that. The Lord Jesus wants to make us cultured, scholarly, refined, upright, clean, using good words, using good language, speaking of good things with our conversations such as becoming the saints of God. And when you take in God's words and think God's thoughts, why, right away you become a more or less cultured person. The truth of the matter is that those who know their Bibles best are those who are the most polished and the most cultured. I know that in the name of religion there's a great deal goes on that's very crude and rough and uncouth and uh cultured people sort of resent that they don't want to go around hear a man who uses atrocious language and doesn't know how to handle himself on the platform and doesn't know how to speak smoothly and use right words. Don't you remember Job said how forcible are right words? Now, when the word of God dwells in your heart and this verse is true thy words were found and I did eat them and thy Word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart. Right away your mind and your heart are filled with words that are helpful to people.

Comforting, wise words, kind words, helpful words. And perhaps you will remember that the Lord said in one place by thy words thou shalt be justified and by thy words thou shalt be condemned. So get to the Lord Jesus. Let him make you a cultured, refined, upright, polished Christian who commends the things of God to everyone that you meet, who will make you to be an ornament to the things of God. And you will adorn the doctrine of our blessed Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

You will notice, haven't you, that the farther people get away from God and from the Bible, the more rough and uncouth they are? Go down into the slum districts or any other place around where men reject the word of God and you will find that as a rule, the language is crude, it's full

of profanity and all the things that go with heathenism. You know that. But when you get around Christians who know and love our Lord, grandfathers and grandmothers, young fathers and young mothers and even boys and girls who really have been touched from heaven and have received the imprint and impress of God upon them, they use good language. They tip the hat to the lady.

They rise and give the lady the seat. They don't rush in through the door to get ahead of all the old people waiting to get on the car. They are polite, they are courteous, they are kind. And we have that lovely thing that we call scholarship which has both poise and piety. It has dignity about it and Godliness and all those sweet, lovely graces that we love to see in people that comes from letting the word of God dwell in your heart richly.

Thy words were found and I did eat them. And thy Word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart that's found in Jeremiah 15:16. Then, of course, the Holy Spirit is such a teacher he shall teach you all things. You remember that he shall teach you all things that's John 16. Well, as a matter of fact, all the blessings you're enjoying, including this radio right now, has come in a Christian country.

You never find any of these things in heathen countries, nor in countries where the Lord Jesus is not loved and the word of God is not loved and honored and read by the people. Whenever you find a country in which the Word of God is kept from the people, and in the place of the word of God, there is substituted all sorts of human things. You find right away ignorance and superstition and sin and roughness and crudeness and all the things that make for evil. But when

the word of God is turned loose on the people and they read their Bibles and churches are open, God's people can go and hear the precious truth of God. Prayer meetings are held, and the word of God is exalted, and the Lord Jesus Christ is magnified and loved.

There you find watches and clocks and thermometers and radios and radars and automobiles and electric lights and all kinds of fountain pens and wristwatches and medicines and anesthetics and antiseptics and all the things that go to make up our wonderful civilization. The fourth blessing of being a Christian is found in leadership. In Genesis 24 verse 58, we read, I will go with thee. I will go with thee. And you remember when Moses was afraid to lead the people of Israel out?

God said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest. Well, now, that's the way it is with our Lord. He becomes our leader when we get saved, when we're born again, when we're redeemed, when we're pardoned. God becomes our leader. The Holy Spirit guides us into all the truth, and we walk after the Spirit.

He goes ahead of us. He shows the way. He teaches us what to do, what to say, how to live, and isn't that wonderful to have a good leader my through the World War every once in a while, my heart just went up to God in gratitude for giving us such wonderful leaders as we had, our own wonderful president who led our armies to victory in such a wonderful way. And especially my heart was stirred by the way our commanding officer handled that battle of the bulge when everything was in danger so quickly.

My, how he'd rallied and his wisdom and judgment were brought into display at once. Well, God gives us leadership, and we need it, don't we? He will take the things that are God's and show them to us. He will guide you into all the truth. That's what it says about the Holy Spirit, and we want him to speak to us.

We want Him to make known to us the will of God and show us the dangers of life and bring us into his blessed holy presence. And so because of that, we say, thank you, Lord. We want you to give us be a daily leader to us. And that isn't the way of the world. The world goes to church on Sunday morning or some other time, and that's the end of it.

They go and try to get forgiven, and then they go away happy and satisfied, and they light up and go off and do what they please. No, beloved, that isn't leadership, is it? That isn't workmanship, nor fellowship nor scholarship. That isn't anything. That's just a fraud and a farce.

Beloved, if that's all the religion you have, if that's all the salvation you have, you'd better get to the Lord Jesus rather quickly, because you haven't anything. God doesn't just forgive sinners and then let them go on their way. He saves sinners, this man receiveeth sinners and eateth with them. See that's fellowship again, he receives them. That's uh brings them into his presence.

He eats with them. That's fellowship, and he has to find a way to do it. And of course, he does it through his precious blood. Then the fifth blessing of being saved is the blessing of companionship. It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay no other burden on you.

Acts 15:48-28, Acts 15:28. There's companionship walking with the Lord. I suppose you love to sing sometimes I walk and I talk with the King. Have you ever noticed, beloved, that folks that are really saved are found singing during the day, singing the songs of love about our Lord Jesus.

Majestic sweetness sits enthroned upon the Savior's brow. They love to sing it, or they love to sing Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly and they love guide me, O thou great Jehovah, or Crown him with many crowns. During the day you'll find, saved people singing because they're in fellowship and companionship with the God of heaven. You never find professing Christians do it. They go around whistling, yes, We Have No Bananas, or floating down the Swani River in him holding her hand and her holding his hand or some kind of stuff like that.

The world's songs they whistlers sing those sometimes. But you don't find professing Christians, those that are just after forgiveness and don't care anything about the forgiver, you don't find them singing. Now my beloved, the Lord wants our companionship. It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us, said Dr. Luke. They were sitting down together, the Spirit of God and the saints of God sat down together and talked over the problems of the church.

Well, that's what he wants to do, you see the Father's in heaven and the Lord Jesus is in heaven at God's right hand, in his physical body of flesh and bones. And they too, sent another person down. He's called the Holy Spirit, and he is holy and he is a spirit. And he wants to come to your life and mine and make us companions of the Lord so that we really walk and talk with the King,

so that we really feel his presence. As he said to Moses, my presence shall go with thee and I will give thee rest.

And Jesus said, lo, I am with you always. Just think of that, that the Son of God, the eternal God of heaven, would be willing to walk with you and talk with you and commune with you all day long and every day of the week. And if you're really saved, you'll love it. You'll say, thank you, Lord Jesus. I love to have you near me.

I love your fellowship, I love your presence. I love you, you yourself and your heart will go out in adoring worship to the Father in heaven, to the Lord Jesus and to the Holy Spirit. Are you a companion of the Lord? Or are you just a beggar that comes once in a while and says, I want forgiveness and I'll pay you for it. I'll give you a lot of money, or I'll give you time, or I'll suffer for you, I'll do something.

I want to buy forgiveness from you. But you don't care anything about the Lord who gives it free of charge. You don't care anything about the One in glory who wants you near to Him and in fellowship with Him. Beloved, you ask your heart, do you have anything at all that's worthwhile? Anything at all?

Or is it just a grind? Day after day and week after week and year after year, you try to get forgiveness. You want to get forgiveness. And then there are a lot of folks that don't even care for that. They don't go near the Lord for anything.

Day after day they rise, go to work, and enjoy his blessings and never say thank you, never ask for guidance or leadership. They're not interested at all in anything that God has. They're just busy making a living, getting money and automobiles and homes and more stocks and bonds and watching the market and then having a good time in pleasure. That's all. And God is omitted from their program.

Beloved, remember, you won't be fit for heaven. Heaven is for those who love to be with God and with Christ. Let me urge you, trust the Lord Jesus, for he said, Him that cometh unto me, I will in no ways cast out.