

Sunday, March 24, 2013—The Things Freely Given Us of God—Complete in Christ

### **Introduction**

- I Corinthians 2:9-12—this has been our base text over the past five months as we have been looking at the things that have been freely given us of God.
- I Corinthians 2:9—tells us that our eyes have not seen, our ears have not heard, neither has the heart of man even entered into an understanding of what God has prepared for those that love him. This verse is a free quotation from the Old Testament (Isaiah 64:4).
- The point here is that mankind by his own efforts is incapable of perceiving the ways of God. There is no way for us to fathom, through our own means, the way God loves those that are his.
- I Corinthians 2:10—“But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit.” Note the contrast with the previous verse, things that we are incapable of entering into in verse 9 on our own, have been revealed and made known unto us by the Spirit of God. Please notice that the word Spirit in verse ten is spelled with a capital “S” meaning that it is referring to a person i.e., the third member of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit. God the Holy Spirit reveals or makes known things to us regarding how God views us that we could never understand on our own.
- I Corinthians 2:10—“for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.” It is only the Spirit of God that is capable of entering into and comprehending the “deep things of God.” However, since the Holy Spirit dwells within in us God has now given us the capacity to know and understand the deep things of God. God the Holy Spirit has revealed and make know things unto us that we are otherwise incapable of knowing.
- I Corinthians 2:11—my spirit knows what is going on inside my inner man. I don’t know what is going on inside of anyone else unless they tell me. So it is with the Sprit of God, the things of God are only known by the Spirit of God. In other words, mankind cannot know the things of God apart from God’s spirit.
- I Corinthians 2:12—“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the sprit which is of God.” When we trusted in and relied exclusively upon the finished work of Christ we received God the Holy Spirit. Why? “That we might know the things that re freely given us of God.” God wants us to know what we could not enter into in verse 9. God wants us to know the things he has prepared for those whom he loves (us). God wants us to know and appreciate what he has done for us. This is why he gave us his Spirit, so that we can know these things. God does not want us to be ignorant of what he has done for us; our Christian lives are not designed to function on the basis of ignorance.

### **Review**

- Over the past five months we have sought to understand from the Word of God these things that have been freely given us in Jesus Christ.
- In our study “With Christ” we learned at a members of the body of Christ we have been:
  - Crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:20, Rom. 6:3-6)
  - Buried with Christ (Col. 2:12, Rom. 6:5)
  - Risen with Christ (Col. 2:12)
  - Alive with Christ (Col. 2:13)
  - Ascended with Christ (Eph. 2:6)
  - Seated with Christ (Eph. 2:6)
- In “The Temple of God” we studied how God has chosen believers as his habitation during the dispensation of Grace. Believers are indwelt by all three members of the Godhead.
  - The Temple of God (I Cor. 3:16, Eph. 2:19-22)
  - Indwelt by the Father (Eph. 4:6)
  - Indwelt by the Son (Rom. 8:9-11)
  - Indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:22)
- “Joint Heirs With Christ” chronicled how we have been made joint heirs with Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:14-17). In addition we discussed the difference between our inheritance (Eph. 1:11-14) and God’s inheritance in the saints (Eph. 1:18)
- “The Adoption of Sons” laid out how as members of the body of Christ we have been adopted into the family of God as fully functioning adult sons (Rom. 8:15). We are given all the rights and privileges of a fully grown adult child (Eph. 1:3-5).
- In “All Things Work Together For Good” we discussed the often misunderstood verses of Romans 8:28-30. In our two studies on these verses we learn about the following concepts:
  - Foreknown
  - Predestinated
  - Called
- “Justification” brought us into the courtroom of God as we learned that based upon the cross work of Christ not only has the verdict against us been changed from guilty to not guilty but that God’s very righteousness has been imputed to our account.
  - Romans 8:33—*Justified by God.* - He is the Source. God is the one who declares us to be righteous.
  - Romans 5:9—*Justified by Blood.* - Christ’s blood is the Basis. Christ paid the price of our redemption.

- Romans 3:24—*Justified by Grace*. -This is the Means. The righteousness of God is freely given to the undeserving sinner.
  - Romans 5:1—*Justified by Faith*. - Here is the Appropriation.
  - Romans 4:25—*Justified by the Resurrection of Christ*. - This is the Guarantee. Eternal life has been given to the possessor of perfect righteousness (Christ’s imputed righteousness).
- “Glorification” highlighted the present and future aspects of our glorification with Christ. All the things listed below are present realities for believers while we wait for blessed hope, the glorious appearing of Christ in heaven, and a body fashioned like the resurrected body of our Lord Jesus Christ (Col. 3:1-4, Titus 2:13, Phil. 3:21).
    - Galatians 3:27—we have been clothed in the splendor of Christ.
    - Ephesians 2:6—we have a position with Christ in the heavenliness far above all principality, power, might, and dominion.
    - Ephesians 1:3—we have been blessed with all spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus.
    - Romans 8:17—we have been make joint-heirs with Christ.
- As the titled suggests, “Peace With God, Without Blame, No Condemnation” traced these three spiritual realities that presently posses as members of the body of Christ. Most importantly we discussed how these realities ought to effect how we view our relationship with God.
    - Peace with God (Rom. 5:1)
    - Without Blame (Eph. 1:4)
    - No Condemnation (Rom. 8:1, 33-34)
- In “Accepted in the Beloved” we discussed how all our needs for unconditional love and acceptance have already been meet for us in Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:6). As believers we need to stop looking to other people to get what can only be given us in Jesus Christ.
- Our five part miniseries on “Total Forgiveness” sought to cover every aspect of this important truth.
    - All our sins past, present, and future are completely forgiven.
    - If our sins are all forgiven, why do we still sin?
    - So we need to keep short accounts and confess our sins according to I John 1:9?
    - Does the daily confession of sin bring victory over sin?
    - Does God punish us physically during the dispensation of grace when we sin?
    - Applying our total forgiveness: forgiving others and ourselves.
- The study “In Fellowship” looked at the fact that our fellowship with God is based upon the faithfulness of God not our own (I Cor. 1:9). We also consider practical aspects of what does fellowship looks like.

- “Hid With Christ in God” highlight the reality and mechanics of our eternal security (Col. 3:3)
- In “More Than Conquerors” we learned that we have gained a surpassing victory through Jesus Christ. One of the things that we have been given freely in Christ Jesus is a standing of total, complete, and utter victory (Rom. 8:37).
  - II Corinthians 2:14—God always causes us to triumph.
  - I Corinthians 15:54-57—we have already been given the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - Romans 5:17—God’s intention is that we might reign in life by Jesus Christ. God wants us by the power of his the indwelling Holy Spirit working in conjunction with his written Word to reign in our own lives.
- Last week in “Not Appointed to Wrath” we learned that as members of the body of Christ we are not destined to face the horrors of the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel because we are not appointed to wrath but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ (I Thess. 5:9).

### **Complete in Christ**

- The reason I went through this extensive review of our entire series was to try and overwhelm you with the glorious reality of a fundamental truth: as believers we are complete in Christ.
- Colossians 2:9-10—WE ARE COMPLETE IN CHRIST!!!!
- The Greek word translated “complete” carries the following primary meanings according to *Strong’s Concordance*: 1) to make full, to fill up, i.e. to fill to the full a) to cause to abound, to furnish or supply liberally; 2) to render full, i.e. to complete a) to fill to the top: so that nothing shall be wanting to full measure, fill to the brim.
  - Matthew 1:22—“fulfilled” (used 17 times in Matthew in this context)
  - Luke 7:1—“ended”
- Colossians 2:9—notice that in the previous verse Paul is speaking about the fact that in Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.
- According to *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary* the English word “fullness” carries the following meanings: 1) The state of being filled, so as to leave no part vacant. 2) The state of abounding or being in great plenty; abundance. 3) Completeness; the state of a thing in which nothing is wanted; perfection.
- Does Jesus Christ in bodily form perfectly manifest the fullness and completeness of the Godhead. Is there anything in which Jesus Christ is lacking? No

- Colossians 2:10—we are just as full and complete because we are in Christ. As members of the body of Christ we stand perfect and complete in Jesus Christ lacking nothing.
- Ernest Campbell in his *Commentary on Colossians* stand the following, “Even as there is total fullness, completeness, and perfection in God in Christ; likewise believers in Christ share in the same fullness, completeness, and perfection of God. Paul’s argument is that since the fullness of God resides in Christ, and because of their in-position in Christ they have been made full; therefore it is ridiculous to try to add anything to their full and complete position in Christ.”
- As believers we stand perfect and complete in Jesus Christ lacking nothing.

### **Conclusion**

- Romans 6:3, 6, 9—first, there are some spiritual truths and realities that we need to know. We cannot walk in what we do not understand.
- Romans 6:11—second, we need to reckon as true in our lives the things that we learn.
- Romans 6:13, 16, 19—third, we need to yield and submit to the truth of God’s Word. Now that we know, and have reckoned it to be so, we need to yield to God’s truth in our lives.