

November 19, 2017

Incredibly Blessed

Romans 16:25-27

“It was sin that made death so frightening and law-code guilt that gave sin its leverage, its destructive power. But now in a single victorious stroke of Life, all three—sin, guilt, death—are gone, the gift of our Master, Jesus Christ. Thank God! With all this going for us, my dear friends, stand your ground. Don’t hold back. Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for Him is a waste of time or effort.”

1 Corinthians 15:56-58 (The Message)

Rather than add legalistic requirements for people who often feel overwhelmed by the challenges of daily living, the obedience that is faith calls us to trust in God’s promises, anchor our hope in God’s goodness, and glorify God with hearts filled with joy. Our attitudes and actions spring—not from an insatiable desire to earn God’s favor—but from gratitude for God’s grace, love, and redemption, we have already been given (C. Young, 2008).

No human response to God can compare to the gift of God’s grace that redeems human beings, adopts us into God’s family, reconciles us to God and one another, and atones for our sin, enabling and empowering us to faithful obedience (Donald Musser, 2008).

Glory is what God looks like when—for the time being—all you have to look at Him is a pair of eyes (Frederick Buechner, 1973).

Next week: Ephesians 16:25-27

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DAILY PRAYER: We rejoice in our salvation, and sing Your praise! Fill us with love and renew our hearts. Equip us, so Your work will be our delight. May we see You in all people and be willing to sacrifice what we love—for the sake of lost people. Give us passion to bring our neighbors to salvation and relationship with You. Help us love our community as we love ourselves and our families. I will encourage my church family to live into Your calling, as I live into mine. Thank you for calling us to serve You and bear Your Name! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

Today: *Psalm 50:7-15, Amos 5:18-24 (What is God saying?)*

Monday: *Matthew 25:1-13*

Tuesday: *Colossians 4:2-18*

Wednesday: *1 Thessalonians 5*

Thursday: *2 Thessalonians 2*

Friday: *2 Thessalonians 3*

Saturday: *John 4:31-38*

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