Salvation and Its Blessings

Introduction

To be good at something, we need to learn it and then practice it. Practicing includes remembering and working on the fundamentals so that we can continually build upon them to improve our skills. Athletes, musicians, and craftsmen in particular know this, but I believe the principle applies to most things we do. The same holds true in spiritual matters and our growth as children of God. We need to learn what the word of God says to us, and then we need to regularly think about the foundational truths of what He has done for us so that we can build upon them, and mature, in our daily walk as believers.

The following representative Bible verses and passages are provided to remind ourselves of our salvation and the blessings that we receive the moment we believe the gospel of salvation. My hope is that they humble us and provide motivation to live for God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Salvation

We need to be saved from the consequences of our sins.

As it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; all have turned aside, together they have become useless [worthless]; there is none who does good, there is not even one." (Romans 3:10-12)¹

But now apart from the Law [of Moses] the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:21-23)

• God provided the remedy for our sins through His gift of salvation.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

He [God] made Him [Christ] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (II Corinthians 5:21)

In Him [Christ] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses [sins], according to the riches of His [God's] grace. (Ephesians 1:7)

I [Paul] pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His [God's] calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints [believers], and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in

¹ All references are quoted from the *New American Standard Bible* (*NASB Side-Column Reference Edition*, Copyright © 1996 by The Lockman Foundation). Nonbolded words in brackets are either equivalent words from the *King James Version* or, if in italics, were added by me for clarification.

accordance with the working of the strength of His [God's] might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. (Ephesians 1:18-21)

But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration [rebirth] and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His [God's] grace we would be made heirs according to the hope [certainty] of eternal life. (Titus 3:4-7)

We need to believe the gospel of salvation.

Now I [Paul] make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. (I Corinthians 15:1-4)

In Him [Christ], you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge [deposit] of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

Now to the one who works [for righteousness], his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him [God] who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness. (Romans 4:4-5)

But what does it [Scripture] say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" — that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. (Romans 10:8-10)

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

We should pause for a moment and reflect on these things. Are we trying to do our best to be right with God, or do we realize that we cannot do what is necessary to meet God on His terms. Without the work of Christ at the cross we have no hope because of our natural sinful condition. Do you believe that Christ died for you?

Blessings of Salvation

If we believe the gospel of salvation—that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and was raised from the dead—then we automatically have all of the following blessings of God bestowed on us. We cannot earn any of them, and we cannot lose any of them. Although I am certain the list is not complete, all of the following blessings are gifts from God through the work that Christ accomplished for us at the cross.

We have forgiveness of our sins.

In Him [Christ] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses [sins], according to the riches of His [God's] grace. (Ephesians 1:7)

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. (Ephesians 4:32)

We have inherited eternal life.

But now having been freed from sin and enslaved [become servants] to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:22-23)

But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration [rebirth] and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His [God's] grace we would be made heirs according to the hope [certainty] of eternal life. (Titus 3:4-7)

We have eternal security and cannot lose our salvation.

In Him [Christ], you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge [deposit] of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

For I [Paul] am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

• We are at peace with God—He has reconciled us to Himself.

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction [gained access] by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. (Romans 5:1-2)

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. (Romans 5:10-11)

We are chosen in Christ.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He [God] chose us in Him [Christ] before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him [God]. (Ephesians 1:3-4)

But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the

truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (II Thessalonians 2:13-14)

• We are in Christ and He is in us.

Therefore there is now no condemnation [for sin] for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1)

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ he does not belong to Him. If [because] Christ is in you [brethren], though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if [because] the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He [God] who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. (Romans 8:9-11)

• We were called by God to salvation according to His purpose.

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. (Romans 8:28-30)

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure [purpose]. (Philippians 2:12-13)

• We have been adopted by God as His own children.

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you [brethren] have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. (Romans 8:14-17)

For you [brethren] are all sons [children] of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:26)

He [God] predestined us [believers] to adoption as sons [children] through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved [Christ]. (Ephesians 1:5-6)

• We are members of the true church, which is the body of Christ.

For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks [Gentiles], whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. (I Corinthians 12:12-13)

And He [God] put all things in subjection under His [Christ's] feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (Ephesians 1:22-23)

We are members of the household of God with all believers of all time.

So then you [brethren] are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints [all believers], and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22)

• We have been indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction [gained access] by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (Romans 5:1-5)

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ he does not belong to Him. If [because] Christ is in you [brethren], though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if [because] the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He [God] who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. (Romans 8:9-11)

We are alive in Christ instead of dead in sin.

Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:8-11)

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions [sins], made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:4-7)

We have been regenerated (made into a new creation) — we are born again, washed, and made new.

But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration [rebirth] and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His [God's] grace we would be made heirs according to the hope [certainty] of eternal life. (Titus 3:4-7)

Such were some of you; but you [brethren] were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in [by] the Spirit of our God. (I Corinthians 6:11)

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature [creation]; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. (II Corinthians 5:17)

• We are spiritually seated with Christ in His current position in heaven at the right hand of God—we are citizens of heaven.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions [sins], made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:4-7)

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. (Philippians 3:20-21)

• We are complete in Christ.

For in Him [Christ] all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority. (Colossians 2:9-10)

• We have been justified—we are declared not guilty, just as if we had never sinned.

He [*Christ*] who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of [for] our justification. (Romans 4:25)

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction [gained access] by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. (Romans 5:1-2)

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. (Romans 5:9)

We have been sanctified—we are set apart by God as sacred to Himself.

For when you were slaves of sin [unsaved], you were free in regard to righteousness. Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification [holiness], and the outcome, eternal life. (Romans 6:20-22)

Such were some of you; but you [brethren] were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in [by] the Spirit of our God. (I Corinthians 6:11)

• We have been glorified—we have been exalted or elevated to a position of honor by God because we are in Christ.

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many

brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. (Romans 8:28-30)

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions [sins], made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:4-7)

• We are considered (reckoned) by God to be holy and blameless in Christ despite our continuing sinfulness; we are considered righteous by God.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He [God] chose us in Him [Christ] before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him [God]. (Ephesians 1:3-4)

But the one who does not work [for righteousness], but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness. (Romans 4:5)

He [God] made Him [Christ] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (II Corinthians 5:21)

We have inherited the riches of God's grace and glory.

In Him [Christ] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses [sins], according to the riches of His [God's] grace. (Ephesians 1:7)

I [PauI] pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His [God's] calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His [God's] might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. (Ephesians 1:18-21)

• We are God's workmanship; He is working through us according to His will.

For we are His [God's] workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10)

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure [purpose]. (Philippians 2:12-13)

• Nothing can separate us from God's love.

What then shall we [believers] say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God's elect [believers]? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at

the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, "For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I [Paul] am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:31-39)

Conclusion

Brethren, we have been blessed with all spiritual blessings. Praise God for everything He has done for us through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! May we often remember and reflect on these things with humility and thanksgiving. Furthermore, may these blessings give us a desire to walk worthy of, or live as befitting, our salvation in Christ to which we have been called by God.²

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He [God] chose us in Him [Christ] before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him [God]. (Ephesians 1:3-4)

Therefore I [Paul], the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling [salvation] with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:1-3)

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² See my study **Walk Worthy** that addresses how we should respond to God and our Lord Jesus Christ for the gift of salvation.