

God's Abundance in our Lives

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➤ Intro:

- **the goodness of God is seen in the abundance He gives all men, but especially to His children**
 - **Ps. 36:8** “They drink their fill of the **abundance** of **Your house**; and You give them to drink of the river of Your delights.”
- **illus.: when Isaac blessed Jacob before his death, he said, “Now may God give you of the dew of heaven, and of the fatness of the earth, and an abundance of grain and new wine” (Gen. 27:28)**

➤ God gives us abundant spiritual and physical blessings – as His children – **spiritual, physical**

- **Matt. 13:10-13** Jesus taught in parables, so His disciples would have abundance, resulting from the knowledge of God
 - **God's word gives us an abundance in our lives, resulting from a knowledge of God and His word**
 - eternal life, spiritual wisdom, true spirituality and worship of God, peace that surpasses understanding, physical promises of blessings which God only gives His children

- - **Matt. 25:29-30** Jesus, conclusion of parable of talents, have, given more, have an abundance
 - **to everyone who has** (has spiritually), more will be given, and he will have an **abundance**
 - **to everyone who does not have** (not have spiritually), even what he has will be **taken away**
 - **our lives in heaven will be full of eternal abundance, of such magnitude we can't fully comprehend**
 - spiritual abundance results from obeying God's word

- - **2 Cor. 8:13-15; 9:6-8** God gives us an abundance of physical blessings to share with brethren who are in need

- **1 Tim. 6:17-19** God blesses with materially things to **share and do good**, and to **enjoy some** of what He gives us

- **Gal. 6:10** do good to all men, but especially to those of the household of faith

- **Lk. 12:48** from everyone who has been **given much, much will be required**

- **God abundantly blesses us, physically and spiritually**

- **sometimes we neglect to realize our blessings**, and appreciate them, because we want to be like the world
 - **but as God's children**, realizing what we have from God, we are thankful and grateful, which is reflected in all we do

➤ God gives us **abundant grace**

- **1 Tim. 1:14** God's grace is more than abundant to save us

- **Ps. 130:7** abundant redemption

- **Ps. 5:7** enter God's house by God's **abundant lovingkindness**

➤ - **Rom. 5:17** receive the **abundance of grace**, and **gift of righteousness**, through **Christ**

- **Rom. 3:23-24, 25** we are **justified** (saved) as a **gift of God's grace**, Jesus had to die on the cross and become our **propitiation** for us to receive the gift of God's grace

➤ - **Rom. 5:21** grace reigns through **righteousness** to **eternal life** through **Jesus Christ**

➤ - **Rom. 6:3, 14** **baptized into Christ** – sin not our master because we are **under grace**
- we receive the gift of grace when we are baptized into Christ

- **God's grace toward us is more than sufficient, in every way, for everything**

- forgiveness, salvation, strength, peace, etc.

➤ We have **abundant honor as members of Christ's body** – Christians

- **1 Cor. 12:23-24** members of **Christ's body** have **abundant honor**, with more abundant honor going to members who have the less honorable roles from a human perspective, because from a spiritual perspective we are all equal (**Eph. 4:16**)

- **emphasize point for this lesson:** all members of the body of Christ have abundant honor

➤ - **1 Th. 4:3-4** therefore we are to possess our vessels (bodies) in **sanctification and honor** – earth

- **1 Cor. 6:18-20** glorify **God in our bodies**, not our own, been bought with a price

➤ - **1 Pet. 1:7; Rom. 2:5-7** we will be honored at the revelation of **Jesus Christ**, at the **judgment**

- **1 Cor. 6:2-3** judge the world and angels

➤ - **Rev. 21:22-27** we will be honored in heaven for eternity – heaven (**vs. 26**)

- honor will be in heaven, everything and everyone that's dishonorable will not

- **illust:** when you ponder the most honorable people upon the earth, and rank them, do you merely think from a physical perspective, or do you think from a spiritual perspective

- **president** of a country who's an **unbeliever**

- **boss or teacher** who's an **unbeliever**

- **elderly widow** who is poor and destitute, but a **faithful child of God**

- **Do you only look at people with carnal eyes, or do you look at them with spiritual eyes?**

- **Who is most honorable?** - president of a country who doesn't believe, or an elder widow who's a Christian

- **If we treat an unbelieving world leader with dignity and great respect, how should we treat a believing widow?**

- as **God's children, we are the most honorable upon the earth**

- **only it won't be realized by unbelievers until the day of judgment**

- **but we know the honor God bestows upon us**, and it causes us to live as those who are most honored among God's creation

➤ God gives us an **abundance of comfort, when we have an abundance of suffering**

- **2 Cor. 1:5** when have abundance of suffering, God gives us an **abundance of comfort** to offset the suffering – **2 Cor. 5** eternity in heaven

- we face difficulties and trouble as Christians, living different from the world, but God always gives us an abundance of comfort so we can continue on to the end

- peace of God that surpasses understanding

- satisfaction of who we are and what we are doing

- our importance in the world – in the world and the kingdom

- the importance of our work – in the world and the kingdom

- we fight the good fight to the end, knowing the reward that awaits

➤ We must guard against trusting in the physical abundance God gives us

- **Lk. 12:15** Jesus' answer to man who. . . - beware, be on guard against greed, life not consist in abundance of physical possessions

- **illus.: Lk. 12:16-21** parable of rich land owner, tore down barns so could store up wealth and greedily enjoy life

- soul required of him that very night – not get to enjoy possessions, implication is that he was condemned

- we must be rich toward God and store up treasure in heaven, not store up treasure for ourselves

➤ - **Lk. 12:22, 31** so we aren't to worry about physical things, but seek first God's kingdom, and He'll give us the physical things we need – humbly serve God, put Him 1st in everything

- **Ps. 37:11** the humble will inherit the land and will delight themselves in abundant prosperity

Summary / Inv.

- God gives us an abundance of spiritual and physical things

- review PP

- thankful, grateful, diligent to use them for good in God's kingdom, prayerful

- but we must guard against trusting in the abundance, and turning away from God

- **illus.: Solomon became worldly** by putting more value on the physical than on God, so much so that worshiped pagan deities to please his pagan wives

- as a people, God has blessed us more than any other, and we must be on guard against greed, and putting God 2nd in our lives

- **inv.:** if God is not 1st in your life this very moment. . . .