

THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

Part X

Luke 10:19-20

Introduction: The quintessential quest of humanity is truth. The Bible unambiguously and incisively responds. "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. Assimilating who we are in Christ is essential if we are to be fulfilled in life. The danger is for us to become "performance oriented" and to rely on our good works in order to feel holy. The other extreme is to "give up" and live a totally sinful life, regardless of the consequences. Acquiescing to the Bible is the only clear direction to true joy, peace, and happiness.

- I. The blessings of salvation
 - A. Pardon. This means the forgiveness and remission of the penalty of sin. Acts 10:43. The old covenant simply covered for sin, while the new covenant provides cleansing and removal of sin. 1st John 1:5-9.
 - B. Justification. This means that we have been pronounced just and declared righteous and in right standing before God through Christ. By the works of the law, no one could be justified. Romans 3:19-20. The new covenant makes possible justification by faith, by the accomplished work of Christ.
 - C. Regeneration. In this act, we are born again into the family of God and can call God "Father." 1st Peter 1:23. The new covenant makes possible the miracle of the new birth.
 - D. Assurance. This happens when one has the witness of the Spirit that they are secure in Christ. In the old covenant, believers never had the assurance that the new covenant believers have. 1st John 3:19-21; Hebrews 10:38-39.
 - E. Sanctification. This is when one is set apart unto the Lord for His holy service and use. John 17:17-19; 1st Thessalonians 5:23.
 - F. Adoption. This is when we are placed as sons into the family of God. Romans 8:15-17; Galatians 4:5; Ephesians 1:13-14. By this act, we are set in as mature members of the family of God, and Jesus is the firstborn among a vast family of brethren. Romans 8:29. The old covenant believers never experienced this "sonship" as the new covenant believers do.
 - G. Glorification. This means to esteem glorious, honorable, or to magnify. Glorification is the final work of redemption in the perfected saints. Man fell from the glory of God when he sinned under the Edenic covenant. Romans 3:23. The new covenant makes provision for the believer from justification to glorification. Romans 8:17-30. The old covenant believers saw in small measure the glory, majesty, and brightness of God. The new covenant brings the believer into the fullness of the glory of God. John 17:22-24; 2nd Corinthians 3:18.
- II. The blessing of the Gospel of the kingdom.
 - A. Christ not only came to bring salvation, but also to bring the good news of the kingdom of God. This involved the preaching and teaching ministry of Christ. The preaching and teaching of Jesus were an integral part of the words of the new covenant, which is the basis upon which the Gospel of the kingdom is built. Matthew 4:23-25, 9:35, 10:32-42, 24:14.
 - B. The church is to be the instrument to continue the work that Jesus began to do and teach. Acts 1:1; Mark 16:15-20. The Gospel of the kingdom has to be preached into all the world for a witness to all nations before the end comes. Matthew 28:18-20.
 1. The church, in the book of Acts, preached and demonstrated the "kingdom of God" on earth. By the preaching and the reception of the Gospel, people are born into the "kingdom of God." When souls are added to the kingdom of God, they are translated from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light. They are then given citizenship in the heavenly kingdom and seated with Christ on the throne of the kingdom. Colossians 1:13-14.

Conclusion: You and I are individual members of the body of Christ, and as such we are to carry out the will of God on earth. Our mandate is to see that this Gospel is preached to all the world, and then the end will come. Matthew 24:14, 28:18-20.