Morning Sermon April 25, 2021

"God, the Fount of Every Blessing!" – Revelation 1:4-6

I. John's ministry -

[4] John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: … Revelation 1:4 A

John's mission is to minister to seven churches in Asia, to bless them. Yet, the Book of Revelation is a blessing to everyone who reads it! Beyond those seven churches, beyond Asia, and beyond John's time, even today, God multiplies John's labor of love in this Book so that it reaches even us in 2021 North Port, FL!

II. Grace and Peace –

1. This is the same greeting the Apostles Paul and Peter used –

Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:3, 2 Corinthians 1:2; Galatians 1:3, Ephesians 1:2, Philippians 1:2, Colossians 1:2, 1 Thessalonians 1:1, 2 Thessalonians 1:2, 1 Timothy 1:2, 2 Timothy 1:2, Titus 1:4, Philemon :3, 1 Peter 1:2 and 2 Peter 1:2.

2. What these three men had in common was they were all representing God, and this greeting was coming from Him –

[7] …Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 1:7 (NKJV)

John includes the Holy Spirit in His greeting –

3. Grace χάρις charis was a Roman Empire word … but converted to a Kingdom of Christ word –

These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are* with Him *are* called, chosen, and faithful." Revelation 17:12

Now, this verse is speaking about the beast and other who will make war with Jesus, He defeats them. However, it is also true that we once made war with Jesus … our sins nailed Him to the cross and He overcame us, not with "justice" but with grace – see **Acts 9**

4. Peace was a Jewish word –

[24] "The LORD bless you and keep you; [25] The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; [26] The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace." ' Numbers 6:24–26 (NKJV)

5. Both these Words are expressions of God's blessings!

III. From God: The Father, the Holy Spirit and Jesus –

Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, [5] and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. Revelation 1:4-5

1. The Blessings are from God the Father –

Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come … Revelation 1:4 A

Consider the wonderful way the Father is described in relation to time / eternity –

*A. He is the God Who IS – "***from Him who is"**

[1] God *is* our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1 (NKJV)

Our God is a God of the PRESENT, the right now, of course John spoke from the point of view of his present, and even though John at the time was imprisoned for his faith on the isle of Patmos, John knew God was with him, to bless him –

This is similar to what Moses was told -

[14] And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you. Exodus 3:14

As the great I AM, which Christ is also, God the Father, like His Son, is with us always –

… and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen. Matthew 28:20 B

B. *He is the God Who was* - **and who was … Revelation 1:4**

Not only the God of John and Moses, but the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob –

3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Genesis 12:3

- *He is the Old testament Promiser of Blessings -*
- *Yet, His love is before the Old Testament, before time itself –*

3 The LORD has appeared of old to me, *saying:* "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. Jeremiah 31:3 (NKJV)

God's love for us, His desire to bless us, pre-dates our very existence –

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, Ephesians 1:4

C. *He is the God Who* - **and who is to come … Revelation 1:4 A**

He was the future God to John, which means He is God to us today, and He will be God to others in the future –

2. *The blessings are from God the Holy Spirit –*

and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, … Revelation 1:4

A. *There is only ONE Holy Spirit not seven!*
B. *The number seven is the number of God's completion and perfection, He created the world, the earth and the universe in six days and on the seven day He rested, all was very good –*

Genesis 1:31

C. *In regard to God's Spirit the number 7 is used to describe His capabilities to bless us, which are multitudinous –*

3. *Finally, the blessings are from our Lord Jesus Christ –*

5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. Revelation 1:5

A. *Jesus was and is first a witness, He tells the TRUTH, is the truth – **John 14:6, John 17:17** Two Sources of Truth …in a dark …*

B. *He is firstborn from the dead -*

Not the first chronologically resurrected, rather the BEST resurrected!

C. *Ruler over the kings of the earth –*

16 And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS - Revelation 19:16 *See also* **Psalm 2**

IV. *The first of the great blessings, washing –*

… To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, Revelation 1:5 B

1. *See the greatness of your / our sins in this verse that nothing can cure or cleanse them but the Son of God's blood –*

A. *What I have seen in movies but is real …*
B. *What can wash away my sin? – Hymn 307*
C. *See a cure, even for the worst of sinners – "reaching the most defiled" Hymn 467, verse :3*

11 For Your name's sake, O LORD, Pardon my iniquity, <u>for it *is* great</u>. Psalm 25:11 (NKJV) *See also* **Psalm 32:1-2**

2. *See the greatness in the Love of God and Christ -*

To Him who loved us …

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

V. *However, the BLESSINGS are beyond even forgiveness and cleansing –*

6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Revelation 1:6

1. *As kings we start by ruling in our own hearts –*

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. Romans 6:12 *K.T.R.S.O!*

2. *As priests we live like Christ for others –* **Philippians 2:1-11**
3. *In all these things we aim to glorify God –* **Revelation 1:6 B**

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