

07.27.25

Genesis

Chapter 12 - God Chooses for Blessing

A Promise to Bless (vs. 2-3)

Bless Through (vs. 2b-3)

Genesis 12:2-3: “And I will make you a great nation,
And I will bless you,
And make your name great;
And so you shall be a blessing;
And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will curse.
And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

I love the emphatic imperative within the passage,
“You're going to be a blessing.” It's almost like he has
nothing to do with it. God has called him for that purpose,
and certainly God has called us. And in the reading of this,

I want you to see the parallels to us as well as with Abraham. We are the children of Abraham. Scripture will go on to tell us, and that God has great things in store for us.

When you think about the blessings of God, you can't help but think about creation at the very beginning. In fact, Romans kind of echoes this in Romans 1, where he talks about the invisible attributes are seen through creation. I mean, you see the power of God. You look at the universe and you go, "Does it end?" And God goes, "That's one of My invisible attributes. I don't end. From the beginning to the end, I am." And you really see that wonderful picture. In all of creation, you see a sense of order. You look in the Gospel of John, and John will emphasize this in particular. In fact, when he uses the word for "world," it will be the word "cosmos," which means order. He is a God of order, and to the Stoics, he would convey the very fact that our God is a God of order, and you see that sunrise. So, you can depend on things, right? The sun and the moon and the stars and these are things that we depend on. Why? Well, God is displaying

His sense of order and something that you can depend on. Everybody hates the law until they need something to depend on, then they want something that is dependable and God is gracious, certainly, to do that.

As we go through, we see the invisible attributes of creation. It's truly a blessing of God. The question is, with the blessing of God in creation, and Psalm 19 so wonderfully puts it, "the heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows forth His handiwork," we realize the great and glorious work of God in all of these things. Even in the intricate detail of all things, but is that enough to cause us to love God? So, you look at the very beginning of Genesis and the answer is, no. It's not. You look at Adam and Eve and they're sinning and rebelling against God because there is something in the heart of man that always desires more and what he can't have. So, you see that drawing away. What was it?

All the way through the very beginning of Genesis, it states, "And He created this and it was good. He created this and it was good. He created this and it was good, and it was very good" And yet man rejects against God. Why

would he do that? Why wouldn't that be enough to sustain him? And you would think that if, in fact, all the blessings were given to you which were clear in creation, everything was perfect, everything was good, that you would be thankful. But here again, Romans 1 says, "Even though they knew God, they did not glorify him as God, nor did they give thanks." So, Scripture is revealing to us that by virtue of just getting a lot of blessings, it's not going to make you more thankful. By the way, it's probably something that every parent should think through. Thinking that "If I just give my kids everything that they're going to be very thankful and love me." That's not going to work, and the Book of Genesis is revealing that. What is interesting is in particular, when you see Adam, it wasn't until after the fall and the promise that was given to the woman that "Through you the Messiah will come," that he begins to appreciate his own wife. Once again, up to that point, as I mentioned before, he probably called her, "Hey you." But then when he realizes that she is going to be the one that would bring the Messiah, he calls her "Eve," which literally means the giver of life, and you begin to see that there's an

appreciation. It's really not until after the fall that they come and offer gifts to God. So, the realization of a need and a desire to look forward to something and a sense of hope oftentimes stirs far more gratitude than just being plopped with a bunch of things. So, Genesis reveals that.

As we go on, we have Noah and God tells them to build an ark, and so he does. Hebrews 11 says that he obeyed God and built an ark for the salvation of his family. It's a very interesting text as it reads in Hebrews 11. When he does that, we realize that God has given him a gift. He has given him a blessing. That is the blessing of preservation. He is preserving him. He is saving him. He's saving him, and He's saving his family. Once again, you would think that by this, this would create a sense of devotion to the people that God has saved. He has saved them. They would now be devoted to Him. Of course, shortly after they now come on land and they are saved; not only does Noah fall, but then you begin to see the progeny, his people, begin to go their own way. "All we like sheep have gone astray." You would think that here we have the blessings of God in creation, here we have the

preservation of God in salvation, and yet we're not sustained and devoted.

So, we come to another part of this and in some ways it's almost like we're seeing the process of salvation in slow motion, that all these things are necessary for us to realize just how wonderful God is and to be drawn to Him. So, creation is not enough, and the gifts that God gives us isn't enough, and preservation isn't enough in the sense of, "I've been saved from something." But God now wants to bring you in on the process.

We now have Abraham and now we have somebody that goes beyond preservation into vocation; that is to say, there's a participation in what's going on. God's not only going to bless him, but He's also going to make him a blessing.

If you look with me at the very beginning of Chapter 12, (Genesis 12:1) "Now the LORD said to Abram,
"Go forth from your country,
And from your relatives
And from your father's house,
To the land which I will show you."

Now, once again, it's necessary to get away from those who are going astray in order to get grounded. Now, Scripture is not saying that he's not going to be in contact with people anymore because obviously he's going to be a blessing to the whole earth. So God has great things in store for him. Nevertheless, there's a time that you have to step away and say, "I believe this because of this," and not get your cues from man or those that are going astray. God pulls you out, He calls you to be separate, "Don't listen to them. Listen to Me." That's the best way you can help people, by the way. You can't help a drowning person if you're drowning. You have to be not drowning in order to help somebody. So, it is the setting apart and taking apart.

(Genesis 12:2) "And I will make you a great nation..."

Once again, one of the great emphases of this verse is God's the one that's doing it. "You're not going to make yourself a great nation. I'm going to do it."

"And I will make you a great nation,
And I will bless you,

And make your name great;

And so you shall be a blessing.”

Once again, making his name great by actually making a name of character; the same character as God. That by that virtue God will begin to use him to be a blessing. In other words, “The more you're like Me, the more you'll be a blessing. I'm going to make your name great.”

We come to the passage and what was clear is that Christianity is not a spectator sport. We realize that this is not something that we just sit around going, “I'm blessed. I'm blessed. I'm blessed.” God goes, “No, no, it has to be more than that. You have to jump in. I'm calling you out for a purpose, to not only bless, but to be a blessing.”

I was thinking about all the different passages in the New Testament that make reference to this. In particular, 2 Corinthians 6:1 jumps off the page to me because Paul will say, “We are working together with Him.” He's talking about God. We get to work together with Him. In other words, God's not saying, “I'm going to save you, then just sit around.” I mean, Noah tried that. It didn't work out too well. It's very interesting, after he stopped building the

ark, things went south, but when different ones participate, then you begin to see they're all in. It's part of who they are and it's part of their vocation.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 3:9,

“For we are God’s fellow workers...”

(Colossians 4:11) “... fellow workers for the kingdom of God...”

(3 John 1:8) “... fellow workers with the truth.”

“Fellow workers,” I like that phrase, don’t you? We're working together with Him. God is actually calling us to be a part of this, and God is calling us to build with Him. “I will build My church.” And then Paul actually makes an interesting statement, Jesus says, “I'm going to build the church.” But then Paul says, “And we're fellow workers with this. He brings us in on it.” I found the things that I'm involved in, the things that I have skin involved in, then those things are drawing me close. Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also, and where you begin to invest and that your life begins to be a part of. So, Scripture is telling us that salvation is truly revealed in the

glory of God and His great gifts that He gives us, and the fact that He has given us salvation. But He's not just called us to save us. He called us that we might be a part of a change in and of our lives and those around us.

If you look with me in Titus, this kind of summarizes where we're going in this and we're going to see as we go just how necessary it is for us to be that much a part of this.

(Titus 2:11) “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men.”

That's preservation, isn't it? Salvation.

(Titus 2:12) “instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

(Titus 2:13) looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,”

Now, watch verse 14. It's a key verse.

(Titus 2:14) “who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.”

Oh, I thought it was just fire insurance. I thought I was just getting out of...” No, no. He called you to be zealous for good deeds, to be a blessing. Peter will emphasize this as well in 1 Peter 3. So, you were called to inherit a blessing, and so you shall be a blessing. God has called you for those things.

Of course, as you go into Titus 3, he reminds them, “You didn't used to be a blessing.” Yeah. Remember those days where you weren't much of a blessing? In fact, the way he puts it is,

(Titus 3:3) “For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.”

That didn't sound too much like a blessing.

(Titus 3:4) “But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared,

(Titus 3:5) He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done...

We can't say, "It was because I went on a kick and now, I'm just a much better person because of the things that I've done." He said, "He saved you."

"... according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

(Titus 3:6) whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior."

In other words, it was the Spirit of God that changed my heart, that made me want to do these things. I wouldn't normally want to do those things. But he goes on and says, "This is what you've been called to do."

So, he says,

(Titus 3:8) "This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men."

God has called us for a purpose. I know that some people think, “I'm just going to get saved and then I'm going to sit on the bench.” That's not calling.

In fact, in particular, one of the great verses that we oftentimes go to in Matthew 7 makes reference, in verse 21, that “he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.”

Jesus will go on to say, in Matthew 12:50, “Whoever does the will of My Father, this is family.” His point is that it's not something that we just say, “Ok, I believe this and I'm going to heaven.” You go, “I want to be a part of this.” Salvation is really you being a part of something. This is why you must confess Jesus as Lord. You're not just saying, “You want to save me? Great, and I'm going to do whatever I want to do after that.” What you're saying is, “I'm confessing You as Lord. I'm going to do what You say, and because of this, I become a part of Your kingdom by virtue of jumping all in.” And it's one of the great things that this interesting picture in the Old Testament gives us that here you have an individual that jumps all in.

Now, what's interesting is, if you look with me in Genesis 12:3, He goes on and says,

(Genesis 12:3) “And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse...”

He actually uses two words there for “curse,” “the one who curses” and then “I will curse”. The first is He makes reference to a word that basically is defined in the sense of the one who curses you would be the one that looks lightly upon you, or we'll put it another way, “the one that wouldn't esteem you as very much, wouldn't see you as significant.” And then it goes on and says, “And I will curse him.” In other words, bad will come upon him because he didn't take you seriously. It literally means they'll look on you lightly, but because they look on you lightly, a great and horrible curse will come upon them. Well, what is He talking about? Well, what Abraham's going to do is he's going to be the father of faith, and he's going to point to what salvation is all about. The one that looks lightly upon what he's doing will have a curse upon him forever, and it's one of the great truths that we see.

In fact, if you look in Romans 4, you have the reference of Abraham in that particular text, and it begins to reveal that this is a man of faith, and because he's a man of faith, he points us to that faith. Look with me in Romans 4. You'll see that wonderful picture.

(Romans 4:3) "For what does the Scripture say?
"ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO
HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.""

It's a wonderful picture of what salvation is because he put his trust in God.

It goes on and says, which is actually quoting David now within the text,

(Romans 4:7) "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS
DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN,
AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED."

(Romans 4:8) "BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE
LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT.""

This is where the great blessing comes from because you believe that God forgives the sins.

He goes on to say,

(Romans 4:13) “For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith.”

(Romans 4:16) “For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.”

This promise is given to those that God desires to give a blessing to through Abraham. If in fact you'll take seriously what Abraham represents by virtue of his faith in God, God will bless you.

As the passage goes on, if you look back in Genesis 12,

(Genesis 12:3) “And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse.

And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Of course, Galatians 3 in particular begins to point to that picture, and not only was Abraham going to demonstrate the blessing of God through faith, but through his seed (singular), Galatians will say the promised Messiah will

come and all the nations of the earth will be blessed, find salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. So, wonderful promises that are given. What's to be noted in all of this is that initially, as we go through the Book of Genesis, you're going to find that Abraham is not initially a blessing. I mean, he starts off and there's a famine in the land and in the famine of the land, he goes down to Egypt because he's thinking, "Well, the Nile is not going to dry up. So, I'm going to head on down there." Once again, in his sense of pragmatism, it's understandable that he's thinking, "I've got to protect my family. There's a famine here. I've got to go down" instead of turning to God. So, he doesn't initially turn to God, and because of that he finds himself in a hostile surrounding with the Pharaoh, and if you remember, he tries to pass his wife off as his sister by virtue of his fear of the Pharaoh, thinking, "The Pharaoh's going to kill me if he desires my wife. So, I'm going to say she's my sister, and I'm going to protect..." Well, once again, this is all Abraham trying to work through things himself. So, as you go through, he's clearly not a blessing, but God is going to make good on His promise to him. He says, "I'm going to make you a blessing." But the text

virtually reads, "You're going to become a blessing." So, initially he's not going to be one, "But I'm going to get you there." It kind of reminds me of Philippians, "He who began a good work in you..." I mean, when you're saved, you're not instantly perfect. I just wanted to let you know that. I'm sure you have family that will let you know if I didn't, but none of us are initially perfect, but God is going to make us a blessing, and God has begun a good work in us. He has changed our lives. Salvation has been coming, but now He's called us and He says, "We're going to bless you. We're going to make you a blessing." And really, it is in the making of us as a blessing that actually, the great blessing comes from. When you begin to love as Christ loves, then you begin to understand the joy. As Jesus will say in John 15, the fullness of joy that Christ can give you, but you can't enjoy that if you're sitting on the sidelines. Blessed is he that does these things, according to John 13. It's not just the person who hears the words, but it's the one who does these things. So, as you begin to realize that God is doing a great work and He's doing a great work in you, He is taking you on this journey. So, we begin to follow Abraham in his journey and he's not a blessing

to begin with the Pharaoh. He's not really a blessing to his wife, initially because he acquiesces to the things that she wants and he caves in and gives in. And he begins to do things that she wants it to do and she gets angry at him, "Why do you listen to me?" because things don't turn out. So, Abraham is dealing with his own failings through the process, but then God takes him before Abimelech, which is another king, like Pharaoh, and he does the same thing that he did before. So, it's not like he learned his lesson. These in many respects, are encouraging words of Scripture, letting us know that it's clearly not our perfection that God is calling. It is our faith that He's calling, and He says, "Now, you need to trust Me. You need to trust me." And you realize that when you're dealing with these doubts, you can't be a blessing. But as Abraham continues, God protects him, and He says, "Those who think lightly of you, I'm going to curse." So, you remember the Pharaoh? He's going, "Ok, maybe I'll take this woman" and God goes, "You touch that woman, you're dead" and he goes, "Whoa. Abraham, you should've let me know that." The same thing happens with Abimelech. God warned him. He says, "Don't touch

that guy.” So, what's interesting is God's protecting him even though Abraham is not following through on what he needs to do. But God is going to make him a blessing, and we ultimately come to Genesis 22 in which God says, “Now, this is what we're going to do. I’ve blessed you. I told you I was going to bless you. I told you I was going to make you a nation, and though your wife couldn't have children at close to 100, she now has a child. You have a child, and we're going to make a great nation out of you. I've kept My promise. Now, here's what I want you to do, Abraham. I want you to take your only son, and I want you to offer him on the altar.” This is where Abraham will begin to shine, because Abraham sees the faithfulness of God, and he says, “I can trust You.” He takes his son and puts him on the altar, gets ready to pull the knife on him, and the angel of the Lord says, “Stop. I now see that you would not withhold your only son from Me.” What the passage is revealing is that he's come into realm of faith, and by faith, Abraham begins to be declared by God as righteous. “It's because you trusted Me, not because you're perfect, but because you believed I was good, because you believed that if I told you do something, it

would not harm you; it would actually help you. Because you believe, you are saved.” And what a wonderful picture that is that brings us into the salvation, and it really is the process in which God is telling us that “I created all these things that you might enjoy.” And we go, “Yes, thank you. I think. I'm not real thankful.” And then He says, “And beyond this, what I've done is I've saved you.” Then he goes, “Yes, yes, I know that You saved me.” He goes, “You won't really understand until you jump in.” And when Scripture says, “You must confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’,” and saying you're jumping in, you're coming into the realm of true faith and true faith is always being involved. This is why James will say, “Faith without works is dead.” If you really believe something, you will actually do something in accords with it. If you say that Jesus saves, if you believe that Jesus saves, there will be a change of your life. As Ephesians 5 says, you'll become imitators of Christ. You'll walk in love, just like Christ. He's your Lord. You're following Him, and your whole life is going to change.

If you look with me in Zechariah 8, it begins to talk about the people of Israel. Of course, they were called to be a blessing as Abraham, but they did not. If you look with me in Zechariah 8, you see the indictment against them. Then, it says, in Zechariah 7, that God was calling the children of Israel.

(Zechariah 7:8) “Then the word of the LORD came to Zechariah saying,

(Zechariah 7:9) “Thus has the LORD of hosts said, ‘Dispense true justice and practice kindness and compassion each to his brother;

(Zechariah 7:10) and do not oppress the widow or the orphan, the stranger or the poor...”

These are not complicated calls. This is God telling them, “Be nice. I've called you to be a blessing to people, not to be destructive.” It's just so bizarre that the world always goes to the destructive. I mean, this was not only before the flood that every man's thought was continually evil, but then the tower of Babel, they just said, “Let us make for ourselves.” And it's all about self, and it's all about

those pursuits. You would think that they would be willing to at least get along with each other.

It states this,

(Zechariah 7:11) “But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder...”

(Zechariah 7:13) “And just as He called and they would not listen, so they called and I would not listen,” says the LORD of hosts;

(Zechariah 7:14) “but I scattered them...”

If you could drop on down,

(Zechariah 8:9) “Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Let your hands be strong, you who are listening in these days to these words from the mouth of the prophets, those who spoke in the day that the foundation of the house of the LORD of hosts was laid, to the end that the temple might be built.’”

I have a promise that I'm going to give you and what I'm going to do is make you great.”

If you'll drop on down,

(Zechariah 8:13) “It will come about that just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you...”

For what reason?

“... that you may become a blessing. Do not fear; let your hands be strong.”

Once again, why is God calling us? He is calling us that we might be a blessing.

I think it's interesting when Jesus has the 5,000, they kind of spread out and they look hungry and 5,000 people, of course, then with women and children in addition, you're probably looking at maybe 30,000 people at least that are hungry. That would be a scary thing to look at, and the disciples are going, “I don't know how we're going to do this. Send them home.” And then Jesus makes this interesting statement, “You give them something to eat.” What is He doing? He's bringing His disciples in on the process. I mean, why make disciples? God is calling a family together. This is why Philippians 2 will say, “Have this mind in you which was also in Christ Jesus.” We're thinking alike, and that's where the fellowship is, and this

is where the salvation is, that I long to be with Him and like Him. We're being transformed into the image of His Son, and this is the call. God is going to bless you, and He desires to bless you, but He desires to bless you that you might be a blessing. That's why you're called. He didn't just save you from the fire. He called you unto a mission. This is not just a blessing of creation or a blessing of preservation. This is a blessing of vocation. God has called us into something.

So, how does it work? Hebrews 11 will echo actually this passage that we're looking at. I want you to turn there with me in Hebrews 11 because there's specific things that you need to do, specific things that I need to do, as Abraham did that would cause him to be blessed and to be a blessing. There are specific things that He's called us to, and I would say it all begins by the calling. God calls us unto salvation. The Book of Hebrews wants to emphasize the fact that God is calling.

(Hebrews 3:7) “Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says,
“TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,

(Hebrews 3:8) DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS...

“Do not ignore this.”

I mean, how should we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? God is calling and you could hear the heartstrings are being pulled. Jesus loves you. He came to save you. Will you receive Him as your Lord and Savior? And there's just something inside you that says, “I'm coming.” It starts with the obedience to the call.

The way that it reads here,

(Hebrews 11:8) “By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed...”

Very simple phrase, isn't it? I mean, it starts off that way, with no reservation, no further explanation. I've often thought it was interesting, if you've shared Christ with somebody, sometimes God just gives you just a little window. You haven't known this person a long time, but you have this small window, and you begin to share Christ with them, and then they receive and you're going, “Wow, that was without a lot of explanation of what's

going to happen after this or anything.” But the draw itself was, “I've got to go.”

And the way that this reads is,

(Hebrews 11:8) “By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.”

He didn't know what was going on. So, without any reservation, without any further explanation, he just goes, and this is the power of God's call unto salvation. It's very, very powerful.

It goes on to say,

(Hebrews 11:9) “By faith...”

See, he was jumping in. Now, quite frankly, he didn't know what he was jumping into, but he was jumping in because the call was so efficacious, so effectual, that he was coming.

“By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise.”

The point clearly is given within the text that he does not love the world. He comes in as an alien or stranger. In other words, this call is not only me receiving this salvation, but I say, “This is not my home. The rest of my life I am an alien and a stranger to this world. This isn't my home.” And there is a sense of detachment. 1 John 2 will say, “Love not the world, nor the things in the world.” I don't love the things in the world. I used to. They used to be very important to me, but I'm a stranger here. I'm just passing through. I used to, but I don't love them, and there was clear detachment of this.

“By faith he lived as an alien...”

Now, if you look in verse 10, and on top of that,
(Hebrews 11:10) “for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.”

In other words, he has higher expectations than the world does.

The way that it's put in Colossians 3:2,
“Set your mind on the things above...”

So, I'm not looking at the things here. I'm looking at something grander, more glorious, of higher call. My aspirations are to the architect and builder of God. Literally, I'm going to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. We're building His kingdom. We're not building ours. This is what we desire to do.

It goes on and says not only was he a stranger, not only was he building something different, but if you drop on down to verse 17, it reads,

(Hebrews 11:17) “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son.”

Now, here's where you really jump in. I truly believe that in the life of every believer there will be a time in which in some way you're tested by this. You're going to be tested, “Do you love Me more than these?” There's going to be a time we're going to be tested. It may not be your son that you're going to put on the altar. It may be something else that you're going to have to put on the altar, but God's going to say, “Do you love Me more than anything?” And true faith will always say, “I love You more than

anything.” True faith will always trust God for everything. I mean, if He's God, He's God, right? If He loves you, He loves you. Where's the question?

I know that God is doing good. I know that God has good things in store for me and I know that He will bring me safely home. My trust is in Him. All of Abraham's life wasn't a test, but there are specific times in which God goes, “Let's see where you are.” And God will do that in your life. But I will say this, that if in fact you will obey the call, if in fact you will love God more than the things of the world, perceive yourself as detached from the world and see yourself as a stranger and alien, if you'll set your affections on things above, not on this world, and if you'll love God more than anything and trust Him for everything, you will be a blessing. This is a strange phenomenon, but God will start using you in the lives of people. In fact, literally, God will start bringing people in your life. When I go through and I read about Abraham, I don't see him wondering, “What do I have to do to then become a great nation?” You don't see him trying to figure it out. This guy's just living life, and God just plops

things in front of him. He goes, “Ok, what about this?” And he goes, “Well, I'm going to trust You.” He goes, “Right” and then He blesses him, and that's what God does in our lives. It's not a complicated thing. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and God begins to cause you to be a light to the world. The world is standing back watching, and they go, “Does he actually believe this stuff?” And this is where you can't be a spectator because no blessings ever come to spectators. The blessings come to those that are always involved, and God is calling us to do that. “I will bless you, and I will make you a blessing.” That's the call of our salvation.

Closing Prayer:

Father, we come before You today and we ask You to do a work in our hearts. Father, the truth of the matter is that when we came to You, when we heard Your voice, quite frankly we didn't know we were getting ourselves into. We didn't understand all the ramifications and we didn't understand all the dealings with the calling. But by Your power, You called us, and Your Spirit spoke to our hearts,

and we came. We received this wonderful message that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life and we came. Then, we began to realize that by the power of Your Spirit within us, that we were called not only to be blessed, but to be a blessing. And the great blessing to us was going to be in that being a blessing, because we would participate in the work of God, we would become a fellow worker with You. We would work alongside of You, and that, as You came to save, we would begin to proclaim this wonderful message. By virtue of the change of our lives, we would become a light to the world. You would tell us, "Let your light so shine before men that they would see your good works, that they would glorify God in heaven."

With your heads bowed and your eyes closed. Perhaps you've forgotten your calling, but the calling was a package deal. Oh yes, you were called and saved from all of the consequences of your sins. There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. But you were also called to be a people for His own

possession, zealous for good deeds. You were called for a reason, perhaps you forgot.