

# The Old Paths

Volume 14, Issue 1

February 25, 2007

## “How Blessed We Are!”

Jarrold Jacobs

**T**he blessings we enjoy from God in this life are innumerable. Truly, when we think of the physical blessings God has given to us, it is amazing. When we think of the beauty of nature, the complexity of our own bodies, as well as the complexity of the plant and animal kingdoms, all the way to the universe, itself, we truly can say with David, “*What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?*” (Ps. 8:4). For the Christian, the more we spend time in God’s book, the more we understand that God has also given us spiritual blessings to enjoy (Eph. 1:3). With such knowledge, our appreciation for God ought to grow all the more!

In this article, let us focus on one particular spiritual blessing we enjoy. The blessing is realized when we see that we have the opportunity of knowing things that folks in Old Testament days could not have known. While we hold in high esteem and appreciation the work of such faithful people as Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Joshua, Hannah, Abigail, Deborah, and others, Christ made it clear that these folks only had a partial knowledge of God’s plan for salvation. Since the first century, folks have had access to the completed revelation of the mind of God (I Cor. 2:9-13)!

While Christ was upon earth,

he told His disciples, “*Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see: For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them*” (Lk. 10:23-24). In I Corinthians 2:7-8, we find the apostle writing about this truth as he tells the Corinthians that God’s wisdom was “*ordained before the world unto our glory.*” He continues by declaring, “*Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*” Yes, we are truly blessed in having God’s completed revelation in our hands!

When Peter wrote to the Christians, he wrote that the Lord’s plan for salvation was revealed in this way to folks. He declared, “*Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into*” (I Pet. 1:10-12).

In other words, the words written within the pages of the completed Bible are words many people in Old Testament times *desired* to read, but never could. They did not

live to see Christ come to earth (Matt. 2; Lk. 2). They did not live to see the birth of the church (Acts 2), nor folks wearing the name “Christian” (Acts 11:26). Many wanted to see what we see, and could not. They wanted to know of the gospel plan of salvation, and of the church, but did not live to see that time. Jesus’ words to the apostles show how truly blessed we are in being able to witness the fulfillment of promises which began in Genesis 3:15!

Seeing that this is true, may we with godly interest and genuine fervor, read and study God’s word. Why do I say this? I say this for the very reasons we have just discovered. Many folks never had the opportunity we have! Shall we squander it? Many do, don’t they? Yet, we need to remember that this gospel of salvation came into this world at a terrible price — it demanded the death of Christ (Matt. 20:28, 26:28; Rom. 5:8; etc.). By Christ coming to this world, teaching us His will, dying, resurrecting, and ascending back to God (I Tim. 3:16), we have access to a life-giving message that most folks could only look forward to in anticipation!

Think about this the next time we read Christ’s statement concerning John. He said, “*Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he*” (Matt. 11:11). In the letter to the Hebrews, the Holy Spirit reminds them that God had some “*better thing*” in mind for us (Heb. 11:40). How truly blessed we are! We can be in a relationship based upon a completed revelation that folks previous to and including John could only look forward to! We can have access to the message that had

been promised through the years. In its completed form, it is God's word that gives us *"all things that pertain to life and godliness"* (II Pet. 1:3). Can there be anything greater than that? No mortal man could offer such a message (II Pet. 1:20-21). No family can pass down an inheritance that has equal or greater value to what God's word offers (Matt. 6:19-21). Have we ever stopped to simply thank God for His Bible, and for the truth (Jn. 17:17) it imparts to us?

We are truly a blessed people, and it is high time we thanked God for His word which reveals Christ's sacrifice, and therefore our salvation. We ought to be thankful for the examples of godly men and women who show us how to live in this world. How truly blessed we are for having not only facts to believe, and commands to obey, but also promises to receive! Within the Bible, we are given the promise of spiritual blessings in this life (Eph. 1:3), and a home in Heaven one day for eternity! Can any man, or even Satan make a better offer than that? Of course, not! Then let us not ignore God's completed message, but let us learn God's word and show our gratitude to Him by living it all the days of our lives!

## What Can I Do?

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**P**erhaps it is due a constant infatuation and appreciation for youth, but there's something rather unique in their expenditure of energetic life. When a project is in progress, or when they are "bored" with their given assignments, several ask,

"What can I do?" They desire involvement – and it matters not at all what the task! Just to be a part of the "big people's work" is a thrill for many of them. They crave the activity, and sparkle at the realized appreciation for their work. Yet, the most unique quality is a fact they just don't notice, and a fact their seniors need to heed: **THEY ARE GREAT EXAMPLES OF ACTION!**

What a contrast to listen to people. Not long ago, several Christians discussed the need for increased involvement in the local work. "But what can we do?" was the question. They seemed defeated before they every started in their reasoning. Within two days, three or four youngsters saw a few older ones busy with a few tasks. Without waiting for an answer, the youth asked, "Can we help?" and proceeded to set their hands to the task! That's involvement in the right way. They saw the task, and simply joined in!

*"Through idleness of the hands, the house droppeth through."* (Ecc. 10:18)  
*"Building up yourselves on your most holy faith."* (Jude 20)  
*"Let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."* (I Jn. 3:17) These and many more passages tell us "be active." Complaints regarding the work to be done never finished any-

thing (I Cor. 10:10). It was when the people had a mind to work (Neh. 4:6) things were accomplished (read also Haggai.) We need to look for and find the opportunities of working for our Lord! No task is "too small" or "beneath our caliber" when we consider every jot and tittle was important to Jesus (Matt. 5:18). Instead of asking "But what can I do?" about accomplishing a righteous task, find that something and do it! Get involved and prove the Lord's Work is the BEST work!

Older ones can teach the younger ones (Titus 2). That gives both old and young a task: one in teaching, the other in learning. We need only to open our eyes, and listen with our ears to note the many opportunities abounding (Gal. 6:10). "What I can do?" need not be a question of disparage: make it one of positive entreaty with positive results! Send a card, make a call, go visit, offer a ride, offer to do some errands, invite and encourage. What can YOU do? You can follow the basic rule of Matthew 7:12, and in doing so, set the example for others that they might follow suit. Muse on that effect!

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