

Blessings From the Triune God (*Part 3*)

Revelation 1:4-8

Thought for the Day: All glory and dominion belong to Jesus Christ because of who He is and what He has done, is doing, and will do for His people.

Verses 5-7, three short verses, but loaded with truths and insights about who Jesus Christ is, why He came to earth, and the blessings He gladly gives to those who are His followers.

I. The Prologue (1:1-3)

II. The Salutation (1:4-8)

A. The Author (1:4a) – 4 John...

B. The Recipients (1:4b) – ...to the seven churches that are in Asia:

C. The Greeting (1:4c-5c) – Grace to you and peace...

Blessing #1: The blessing of God's grace

Blessing #2: The blessing of God's peace

1. From God the Father: ...from him who is and who was and who is to come...

Blessing #3: The blessing of God's eternal presence

2. From God the Holy Spirit: ...and from the seven spirits who are before his throne...

- "...likely represents the sevenfold ministry of the Spirit as depicted in Isaiah 11:2." (*Charles Ryrie, Revelation, p. 18*)

Blessing #4: The blessing of the presence and ministry of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives

- The Holy Spirit enables us to experience God's grace and peace.

3. From God the Son: 5 and from Jesus Christ...

Blessing #5: The blessing of a Savior who fully identifies with us in our humanity, yet without sin

- Jesus – His human name: "God saves." (Matthew 1:21; Hebrews 4:14-16)
- Christ – His divine title: Jesus is the One anointed by God to set us free from the penalty, power and presence of our sins. (Luke 4:16-21)

Three titles from Psalm 89 (vss. 27, 37) **that describe Christ's authority to rule over the earth as the promised King from the line of David:**

a. ...the faithful witness... (establishes His credibility)

Blessing #6: The blessing of Jesus coming to tell us the truth

- John 7:7; 18:37
- b. ...the firstborn from the dead... (establishes His superiority)

Blessing #7: The blessing of Jesus' victorious resurrection from the dead which guarantees our own future bodily resurrection

- 1 Corinthians 15:20-23; Colossians 1:18; Acts 26:22-23
- c. **...and the ruler of kings on earth...** (establishes His sovereignty)

Blessing #8: The blessing of Jesus' sovereign rule over all the earth and His coming Millennial kingdom

- Matthew 28:18; Revelation 19:6, 17-21; Isaiah 9:6-7; Psalm 2

D. The Dedication (1:5d-6)

- Why does John dedicate this book to Jesus? Because of all He has done for us.

To him who loves us...

Blessing #9: The blessing of Jesus' unflinching love for us

- Present tense—His unflinching love for us. (Rom. 5:8; John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-10)

...and has freed us from our sins by his blood...

Blessing #10: The blessing of cleansing and freedom from the penalty, power and presence of sin through Christ's sacrifice on the cross

- "By the shedding of His blood, Christ paid the debt in full for the sins of the world and thereby released believers from the guilt and penalty of their sins. On our behalf, He conquered death and gave new life to all who believe." (*Swindoll, Revelation, p. 22*)
- "... we have been released from the slavery of sin, set free by the purchase price of the blood of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 6:20; 1 Peter 1:18-19)." (*Hocking, Leader, p. 27*)

6 and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father...

Blessing #11: The blessing of ruling with Christ and serving God forever

- "'Kingdom' views believers corporately and anticipates our association with Christ in His future reign (Rev. 5:9-10), whereas 'priests' sees them individually ministering to our Lord forever." (*Ryrie, Revelation, p. 19*)
- "Kings and priests echoes the description of Israel in Ex. 19:6, a description which is also applied to the church by the title 'royal priesthood' in 1 Pet. 2:9. Christ's sacrifice of Himself (v. 5) has set apart believers as royal priests to offer spiritual sacrifices to God (see Rom. 8:17; Heb. 3:1, 14; 13:15, 16)." (*NKJV Study Bible, p. 2165*)

...to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- "The book of Revelation... is intended to show us the ultimate objective of God in creating the world and mankind—that everything might praise and worship Him!" (*Hocking, Leader, p. 28*)

E. The Announcement (1:7-8)

Blessing #12: The blessing of God's sovereign control over all things