

Curse Breaker 3

Blessing in His Name

(preached 6/25/23)

Please turn to *Deuteronomy 10:8*.

Sermon #1: The Curse of Death

- A curse is more than the “f” word—it’s directed like a bullet at a person, place, or thing.
- A curse is meant to weaken, belittle, delay, stop, or corrupt.
- It binds itself to a person, affecting their present and future.
- God cursed the ground in Genesis 3 resulting in thorns & thistles, and said curse was transferred to us as we’re made from the ground.
- Jesus’ Crown of Thorns was Him transferring said curse from us to Himself, giving us eternal life instead!
- He is the ultimate Curse Breaker!

Sermon #2: The Root of Racism

- Noah pronounced a curse on Canaan, speaking that both he AND his descendants would be subservient to the descendants of Shem and Japeth.
- We’re all descendants of Shem, Ham, and Japeth.
- I believe Noah’s curse is the starting point for racism and inspired the idea of a “master” race which fueled the Eugenics movement. The Nazi Party and Planned Parenthood are 2 children from the Eugenics movement.
- Jesus BROKE this curse by going to the Cross and rising from the dead, enabling us all to be adopted into the family of God!
- We are no longer the sons and daughters of Shem, Ham, or Japheth...we are the children of Father God!
- Every person in Christ is an equal child and heir! There is no inferior or superior. We’re all called upon to serve each other!
- Jesus said the servants would be the most exalted when His Kingdom comes!!!

TODAY *we learn that the opposite of a curse is a BLESSING and we’ll learn a few important things:*

- God’s written & spoken blessings over us repeal and replace any curses declared over us.
- Whether it was a parent, teacher, judge, cop, friend, family member, doctor, or we ourselves: *the blessings of God override any curses which have bound themselves to us.*
- Blessings also BIND themselves to us and the ones spoken by God are bound to us forever.
- Let us declare blessing to others, ourselves, and even enemies.

BARAK. The Hebrew word for “bless/blessing” is barak and translates to *to be blessed, adored, congratulate, kneel down, and abundance*.

This is what God said to Abraham:

[Gen 22:17 ESV] 17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And **your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies**,

POSSESSING GATE. This was a blessing directly from God to Abraham. “Possessing the gate of the enemy” means assaulting an enemy city or stronghold and breaking down their defenses. It was the same context as Jesus’ famous saying that the gates of Hell would not prevail against the church. *A blessing from God brings victory over the devil!*

ISAAC. Now let’s read what happened to his son Isaac:

[Gen 26:24 ESV] 24 And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and ***will bless you*** and multiply your offspring **for my servant Abraham's sake**."

BY PROXY. This is blessing by proxy and is JUST AS GOOD and, in my opinion, maybe better than direct blessing! Isaac was blessed because he was Abe’s son meaning Isaac didn’t have to “do” anything to receive it other than be born to Abraham. Please remember this.

HEBREWS IN DESERT. Here is what the Lord said to the Hebrews whilst wandering the desert:

[Num 6:22-27 ESV] 22 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 23 "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus **you shall bless the people of Israel**: you shall say to them, 24 **The LORD bless you and keep you**; 25 the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; 26 the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. 27 **"So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."**

VERSE 23: the job of the Priests is to confer the blessing of God onto others.

VERSE 27: when we put/write the name of the Lord upon ourselves, He blesses us.

When you and I came to know Christ as our Savior, His name was written on our hearts, and our names were written on His. He IS the Book of Life.

[Isa 49:16 ESV] 16 Behold, **I have engraved you on the palms of my hands**; your walls are continually before me.

[Rev 22:4 ESV] 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

[Rev 3:5 ESV] 5 The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.

[Rev 3:12 ESV] 12 The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

CHRIST'S NAME IS WRITTEN ON US, AND OUR NAMES ARE WRITTEN ON HIM.

We are BOUND to each other.

This bond is eternal and there is no devil, man, woman, child, circumstance, or event which can unbind it.

[Jhn 10:27-30 ESV] 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."

The Lord has “engraved” us on His hands!

GOD'S NAME. Now that the Name of the Lord is written on us, we are His forever. Remember what He told the ancient Israelites: when His Name was upon them, He would bless them.

Now that Jesus' Name is written on our hearts, we are forever blessed!!!

NEXT STEP. Now let's move to the next step which is WHAT to do with all this blessing? What has the Lord commanded?

[Deu 10:8-11 ESV] 8 At that time the LORD set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the LORD to stand before the LORD to minister to him and to bless in his name, to this day. 9 Therefore Levi has no portion or inheritance with his brothers. The LORD is his inheritance, as the LORD your God said to him.) 10 "I myself stayed on the mountain, as at the first time, forty days and forty nights, and the LORD listened to me that time also. The LORD

was unwilling to destroy you. 11 And the LORD said to me, 'Arise, go on your journey at the head of the people, so that they may go in and possess the land, which I swore to their fathers to give them.'

LEVITES. The Levites were the Priests and they were granted no land, possessions, or homes. God alone was their inheritance. They had 2 jobs:

- Minister to the Lord
- To bless people, places, and things in HIS NAME.

MOST POWERFUL. Despite owning nothing, never getting rich, never having a political position like king or governor, and never owning a business, the Levites were (in my opinion) the most powerful and effective of all the tribes.

ARMY LED BY PRIESTS. In verse 11 God prophesies that when they finally reach the Promised Land and march in to take the land by military conquest from the enemy, the army is led by...the Priests. I've never been the military and certainly never led an army, but it doesn't make much sense to have the Priests leading the charge!

GIANTS, ETC. The PM was filled with giants and other powerful enemies who were well established and entrenched by the time the Hebrew people arrived, yet look what Joshua commanded when his army was finally ready to cross the Jordan and begin the campaign:

[Jos 3:2-6 ESV] 2 At the end of three days the officers went through the camp 3 and commanded the people, "**As soon as you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place and follow it.** 4 Yet there shall be a distance between you and it, about 2,000 cubits in length. Do not come near it, in order that you may know the way you shall go, for you have not passed this way before." 5 Then Joshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you." 6 And Joshua said to the priests, "Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on **before** the people." So they took up the ark of the covenant and **went before the people.**

JORDAN RIVER PARTS. The Priests led the charge, bearing the Ark of the Covenant. The Book of Joshua records that the moment their feet splashed into the Jordan River, it parted like the Red Sea and allowed the entire army to pass over. The Priests also led the charge on the city of Jericho.

ARK UNCOVERED! The vast majority of time the Ark existed, it was hidden in the Tabernacle and Temple. In this case it's out for everyone to see, believer and enemy alike. The Priests carried it, they carried the presence of the Lord with them. They went ahead to bless the Hebrew army in the name of God who went on to win major victories over people who were more powerful than they were. They never would have done so if the Priests hadn't obeyed God and blessed the Hebrew people.

We are New Covenant Priests under Jesus and what we're supposed to do with the eternal blessing which Christ bound to us is PASS IT ON.

- We're supposed to bless fellow Christians.
- We're supposed to bless unbelievers.
- We're supposed to bless our enemies.
- And not curse them.

[Luk 6:27-28 ESV] 27 "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

Unbelievers curse, Christians bless.

We are to imitate Jesus. Although He delivered some stern rebukes and warnings, ***He never cursed anyone.***

MR. DOVE. In 7th grade I had an English Teacher named Mr. Dove and he made us give oral reports once per month...and I hated it. I would give mine then run to the bathroom and throw up. He once offered/threatened that if anyone turned this assignment down, they would get a zero...and I was tempted to take the zero just to avoid speaking in front of people. "I'm not cut out for this" I said to myself. "I'm terrible at it and will never be a public speaker."

SPOKE BLESSING. Yet here's what Mr. Dove wrote on my paper time and again: "you're a very talented speaker! A natural! Everyone in class pays attention when you talk!" He didn't know it, but he was blessing me. His blessing came directly against the curse I was speaking over myself in my heart. That didn't just "cure" me because I remained afraid of public speaking for years, but every time I needed to do it, Mr. Dove's encouragement spoke to me. It did so when I nervously preached my very first sermon here at Gateway in 2005.

BOUND TO ME. What he said bound itself to me for life, and continued to feed into the gift God gave me. What if we did the same for others, both kids and adults?

GUNS. A gun is a powerful weapon, yes? It can be used to defend your family or to kill someone for money. When debating gun control, pro 2A people often say "the gun itself is neither good nor evil, it's the person wielding it" which is true.

TONGUE IS POWERFUL. As NC Priests we have a spiritual weapon more powerful than a gun called the tongue. As the Lord has written His Name upon us and God's Spirit lives within us, we can use it to bless or curse.

Calling out sin, correcting, warning, or rebuking someone isn't cursing. Speaking evil onto them is and I gave examples of that in sermon #1.

- “You aren't ever going to amount to anything.”
- “You'll never change.”
- “You're stupid/ugly/slow etc. and always will be.”
- “I hope something bad happens to you.”

God says never to curse leaders so how do we navigate?

- We're free and righteous to call their statements, policies, and actions sin, wrong, and unbiblical.
- We're free to give warnings as to the result of said statements, policies, and actions.
- We're not free to call them names and/or speak evil over them such as wishing them bad health, etc.

Karma is a curse and when Christians speak Karma over an enemy, it's the same thing as casting a dark spell that's meant to harm. Any spell casters here today?

WE LOVE? Don't we have the tendency to bless the people we love? Yet Jesus said:

[Luk 6:32-33 ESV] 32 "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same."

AUTHORITY FIGURE. With God's name written on us and being ordained Priests of Jesus, our tongues carry a powerful effect. Remember in sermon #1 I said curses were stronger when coming from any authority figure or someone we're in relationship with?

YOU ARE AN AUTHORITY FIGURE.

Let's use our tongues to bless!

[Pro 18:21 ESV] 21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

[Jas 3:4-5, 9-10 ESV] 4 Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder (THE TONGUE) wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ... 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

Examples of blessings we can declare to others and ourselves:

- Remember love and truth are one! Lying to someone to make them feel better is not a blessing!
- Speak healing over someone instead of the opposite.
- Speak wisdom over someone in need, especially leaders.
- Declare peace over a person who seems stressed and anxious.
- Ask God to reveal Himself to an unbeliever, to show them how much He loves them.