

In Heavenly Places in Christ Jesus - Part 2

November 11, 2025

Verse 2:

Psalm 1:1-6

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Verse 3:

John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Verse 5:

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

PECULIAR - belonging to a person and him only

Verse 7:

1 Corinthians 2:9

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Verse 8:

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Verse 9:

Romans 11:6

And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

This verse is a clear statement about the nature of salvation—that it is entirely by grace, not by works.

Let's break it down:

- “If by grace, then is it no more of works” — Paul is saying that if salvation comes by God's grace (His unearned favor and kindness), then it cannot at the same time come by human effort or merit. Grace and works are opposite principles.
- “Otherwise grace is no more grace” — If we add human works to grace as a condition for salvation, then it stops being grace. Grace means it's a free gift, not something we earn. (When systems of theology add baptism, first communion, church attendance, confirmation classes, etc... to salvation, it is no longer Biblical salvation. Biblical salvation is completely free from works.)
- “But if it be of works, then is it no more grace” — If salvation were based on our good deeds, then it wouldn't be by grace at all—it would be a wage, not a gift (see Romans 4:4–5).
- If you try to make salvation partly by grace and partly by works, you destroy the meaning of both. If salvation were by grace, it cannot also be by works or else it's no longer grace. And if it were by works, it can't also be by grace or it is no longer truly work (something earned).
- There is a sharp line:

Grace = a gift

Works = a wage

You cannot have both at the same time.

In context, Paul is explaining how God has preserved a remnant of believing Israel—not because they earned it, but because of His grace (Romans 11:5). So Romans 11:6 reminds us that salvation is all of God, not partly God and partly us. Grace and works don't mix in the matter of salvation. It's a comforting truth: we rest in Christ's finished work, not in our imperfect efforts. A secure eternal connection will never initially be reached through our efforts.

Acts 8:36-38

And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

John 10:7

Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 1:11-12

He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Verse 10:

WORKMANSHIP - masterpiece

Titus 3:3-8

For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

Verse 14:

Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Verse 22:

John 12:43

For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Luke 6:22-23

Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.

MEMORY VERSE:

John 1:12

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Please list the spiritual blessings that you find in chapter two. Which blessing is the most meaningful to you, and why?
2. Has the Lord ever used rejection or pain to draw you closer to Him, if so, how?