**New Blessings (Ephesians 1:3-14)**

 The Resurrection life, beginning with its new birth, is a life full of new blessings.

 Greetings to you beloved in Christ as we continue our sermon series on the Resurrection life, presenting to you the subject of new blessings. The life of the believer in Christ is not only characterized by its new beginning. Rather, it is also made up of new experiences – especially the reality of new blessings. These are blessings which did not exist in the previous life (of non-faith in Christ as Lord/Savior). Today we are going to broach the topic of those blessings. Of course, this will be a small attempt to do so, because the blessings are so many that our time will not allow us to deal with them as properly as we would like. Given that, today’s passage gives us an overall picture of our Christ-centered life. Therefore, let us try to better understand why the Resurrection life, starting with the new birth, is one full of blessings. Let us speak, then, about this joyful topic, as we are surrounded with the temporary difficulties of this world.

 We Jesus-followers are a blessed people. Truly our Lord is worthy of all praise and glorification! If we read the doxology of Ephesians with its eleven verses, we see that Paul cannot contain his thoughts and joy about what Jesus has done in just a few words. The Lord gave all kinds of blessings! These are heavenly blessings which are available in spiritual realms to experience or sense. In other words, they are spiritual blessings (as opposed to material ones). The believers are a chosen people. They are chosen and blessed with a purpose, with meaning, with a goal in life. Believers are destined to adoption – in other words, whoever believes is immediately a child of God the Father (they were made for it). This blessing of being destined gives the believer a task of praising God, so that there is not only rejoicing but also the blessing of a practical application to the faith. The believer is acceptable to Father God from the moment of conversion and on. He or she is emancipated thru Christ’s Blood, forgiven of sins, overloaded and lavished with wisdom and insight, and knows the will of God, which is to unite everybody in Him. The believer has received an inheritance for the purpose of being a praise for God’s glory. He now has and can share the Gospel of Salvation with others. Believers are sealed with the Holy Spirit who is their guarantee until Final Judgment and Emancipation. The believer has every blessing and advantage (in this life).

 Let us think for a moment on the reality of Salvation. As a believer, how is it possible to live so joyfully that people around think that he or she has lost her mind? But it was exactly that which characterized the disciples’ ministry! Since their Lord was risen and lived, they also knew that they would live and enjoy that joy they had with Him (during his earthly ministry) on “that day”, as well as on the way to Heaven. It was the abundance of those blessings that caused a preacher once try to express to his child while the boy was sick, “Son! You don’t have time to get sick! There are lost people out there that need to hear about Jesus!” And this missionary on multiple occasions had prayed and seen his child healed supernaturally.

 Today, you and I are extraordinarily, unimaginably, but truly possessing blessings in Jesus Christ. But how joyful are you in the Lord today? Today the Lord has freed you from all kinds of bondage if you are willing to believe it. If you accept it, the Lord has already freed you from the fear of death, the fear of being unacceptable, the fear of rejection, the fear of not being enough, the fear of being weak, the fear of failure. If you believe this to be true, drive away from you the lying and evil ideas and spirits that are hanging around your life.

Come and let us rejoice together at the reality of the presence of the Lord! Come and let us show the world just how blessed we are! If we do this, unbelievers and seekers will come themselves and knock on our doors and want to befriend us. Therefore, now that we have had a small taste of the blessings contained in the Salvation brought about by Jesus, may those blessings begin to rule over our lives, so that the Holy Spirit may call unbelievers and those struggling with faith to their Maker and Savior.

We Jesus-followers are a blessed people.

 The Resurrection life, beginning with its new birth, is a life full of new blessings.

 Therefore, may Jesus’ blessings overflow out of us and onto others around us. May our faith-centered life be a drawing, inviting, and a gentle kiss of God to the lost and fumbling around in the darkness. Come and let us rejoice in the Lord! Come and let us enjoy His blessings, and cause others to do the same! The Lord bless you all. Amen.