

Vision: Be Most Blessed To Bless
Sunday Message Notes
05.29.2022

We live in a cursed world. The numbers don't lie, and they show a rise in everything from mass shootings, drug-induced deaths, and depression. There is no shortage of discontent, disunity and conflict, even within the Church itself, and we can attribute that to spiritual blindness and a lack of vision. Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." We can either open our spiritual eyes and experience blessing, or settle for being spiritually blind and be cursed.

Since the beginning, God's heart was to bless man. Genesis 1:27-28 says, "God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it.'" Adam and Eve were the most blessed when they were in God's presence. Unfortunately, we will see that throughout the Bible, Satan uses sin to separate—and keep man separated—from God. This was not God's vision for His creation.

God is a holy God who cannot be reconciled with sin. His holy justice results in us being cursed, but in his love, He has also provided a redemption plan us to be free and be blessed once again. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." God wants us to experience the best blessing, but in order to do so, we have to believe in Jesus Christ and accept Him as our Lord and Savior.

Why, then, do we seem to still be cursed? For one thing, there are many who still don't know the gospel. There are also many Christians who are just "saved" but not transformed, and are

living as though they are still cursed. Jeremiah 17:9 says, “The heart is more deceitful than all else, and is desperately sick; who can understand it?” Our hearts might deceive us into thinking that being “saved” is good enough, when in fact, we remain cursed. If we continue to fall into sin, we can tend to feel guilty and keep living as though we are cursed.

We need to replace our hearts with new hearts that know God’s vision of Christlikeness. Philippians 2:3-8 says, “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind, regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

To be truly born again with a new heart that is not just saved, but is transformed, we have to:

- A - admit and acknowledge that we are spiritually blind (John 15:5)
- B - believe in our hearts that it is only Jesus who can save us (Acts 4:12)
- C - confess our sins, for He is faithful and just to forgive us (1 John 1:9)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(You may use these as a guide during your DGroup discussion.)

1. Rate yourself today as a Christian in the spectrum of being most blessed (10) versus being most cursed (1). Then together with family, rate if you are most blessed to bless or cursed to curse each other.

2. What do you personally commit to do to be most blessed to bless others starting today? Be specific in how you will bless others.

3. Make your “I will” statement to be an intentional discipler most blessed to bless others.