

THE ABUNDANCE OF GOD (Ephesians 3:20-21)

I. An abundance of blessings.

- A. You and I live in an age where we are abundantly blessed by physical things from God.
 - 1. We have more of everything than at any time in our world's history.
 - 2. Think of the amount of clothes you have compared to your parents or grandparents.
 - 3. Think of the size of the average house today compared to that of 40-50 years ago.
 - 4. Think of the number of vehicles that families have today compared to a number of years ago.
 - 5. Think of the amount of money we have compared to a number of years ago.
- B. God's people have long understood the abundance of God's physical blessings (Job 36:31; Proverbs 28:20).
 - 1. God gives us more than we can imagine.
 - 2. He is an abundant giver.
- C. But we should be more thankful for the abundance of His spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3).
 - 1. It wasn't long ago that we studied the first few verses of this chapter in a sermon entitled, God the good gift giver.
 - 2. Notice the number of spiritual blessings we are given by our great God.
- D. When God gives blessings He gives more than enough.
 - 1. Notice what Paul stated about the abundance of God's grace (Romans 5:17, 20; 2 Corinthians 4:15).
 - 2. Peter compared the amount of temptation in life to the amount of grace that God gives (1 Peter 1:6; 4:10).
 - 3. Peter tells us about the amount of mercy God offers (1 Peter 1:3).
- E. If you are like me, you need plenty of God's grace and mercy and He offers both in unlimited supply to mankind.
- F. Think of the abundance of God's love for us.
 - 1. For God so loved the world (John 3:16).
 - 2. 1 John 3:1.
 - 3. While we were unlovable, God loved us (Romans 5:8).

II. The abundance of salvation.

- A. The Hebrews writer said this of Jesus...(Hebrews 7:25).
- B. Think of the depths of sin to which some have fallen.
 - 1. Saul murdered Christians yet could be saved.
 - 2. Peter denied the Lord yet could be saved.
 - 3. The Corinthians had been heinous sinners yet could be saved (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).
 - 4. Think of people we know or know of who were once in the deepest of sins yet were saved.

- C. The gospel is God's power to save mankind (Romans 1:16).
- D. Because of its power and the abundance of salvation, we must never be guilty of judging someone unworthy of salvation.
 - 1. Just because someone leads a sinful lifestyle does not mean they can't be saved.
 - 2. We can't say, "He/she lives this way and they would not be interested in the gospel."
 - 3. They may not be interested, but we need to give the gospel the opportunity to work in their lives.
- E. There is not a sin from which God cannot save someone if they are willing to repent and obey the gospel.
- F. We are not the judges of who is or is not worthy of the gospel and we should never act as such because of the abundance of salvation that God offers.
- G. The gospel is to go to all mankind and is open for all mankind.
 - 1. God does not want anyone to be lost (1 Timothy 2:4).
 - 2. Salvation is open to all who will obey God (Revelation 22:17).

III. **The abundance of destruction.**

- A. Old Testament examples abound of the destruction that God brings upon the wicked.
 - 1. The entire world save eight souls.
 - 2. The cities of Sodom and Gomorrha.
 - 3. The Israelites above the age of 20 who went with the report of the 10 wicked spies.
 - 4. The Northern and later the Southern kingdoms because of their sin.
- B. When God sets His sights on destroying the wicked He does not hold back.
- C. There is coming a judgment day for the whole world.
 - 1. Those that are found outside of Christ will go into everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46).
 - a. The descriptions of this place show the abundance of destruction.
 - b. The worm dies not, fires go unquenched and continuous wailing and gnashing of teeth.
 - 2. When it is time for the destruction of the world, notice what John reveals to us about this (Revelation 14:10).
 - a. It will be without mixture, there will be no diluting the wrath of God.
 - b. In times past, there was always someone saved.
 - c. Not on that day.

IV. **The abundance of heaven.**

- A. 1 Corinthians 2:9.
 - 1. We cannot comprehend the glory that awaits us.
 - 2. Romans 8:18.
- B. We won't have houses, we will have mansions (John 14:2).
- C. We won't have haloes, we will have crowns (2 Timothy 4:8).

- D. We can't comprehend what is waiting for us on the other side.
 - 1. The Bible attempts to use our feeble language to give us a picture of it.
 - 2. However, our finite minds cannot comprehend the infinite splendor of being before the majesty of God for all eternity.
- E. The righteous go into life eternal (Matthew 25:46).
- F. All that we will need or could ever want will be there for us.