

TRUSTING GOD'S PLAN, PURPOSE, AND DESIGN

"God's Blessing" Genesis 5:25-6:10

November 17, 2024

INTRO.: How has God blessed you? In what ways has God shown His grace to you? Hopefully there are some things that come to your mind quickly. Brenda and I thank God for the blessing it is to be a part of this fellowship. As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, we have much for which we can be thankful. A few weeks, the church where our son Jack serves advertised that you could sign up to receive text messages leading up to the holiday: which they called 30 days of gratitude. Some of the Scripture this past week included the following which we will now read in unison.

Psalm 35:18 I will give you thanks in the great assembly; among throngs of people I will praise you.

Psalm 69:30 I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.

Psalm 95:1-3 Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. **2** Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. **3** For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.

Psalm 100:4-5 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. **5** For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Would anyone like to jump up and share how God has blessed you? You may say, "Pastor, we don't normally do this, which is true. Why not take some time and glorify God? This morning we're going to look at how God's blessing was poured out on Noah, a man who lived in some of the most difficult times in the history of mankind.

Genesis 6:5-6 The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. **6** The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.

In what ways did God bless Noah and how did He show grace to Noah? To do this we're going to look at three things: **The Recognition, The Reason, and The Results.** Let's read through together again some of this account in Genesis.

Genesis 5:28-32 When Lamech had lived 182 years, he had a son. **29** He named him Noah and said, "He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the LORD has cursed." After Noah was born, Lamech lived 595 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Lamech lived 777 years, and then he died. After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth.

Because the people were so evil: *every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time*, God promised judgment on mankind. In the midst of this what did God promise Noah? Let's read together.

Genesis 6:8-10 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. **9** This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. **10** Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

THE RECOGNITION

Genesis 5:28-29

When Lamech had lived 182 years, he had a son. **29** He named him Noah and said, "He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the LORD has cursed."

This is the second time that we have heard the name Lamech. They are two different men who happen to have the same name. Some of you may have run into that with your name. I have it happen to me all the time: you'd be amazed how many men have the name Dawes. I know of several: my great grandfather, grandfather, Dad, son, and grandson. It's one of those names that you can readily find on coffee mugs, kitchen magnets, and key chains. Of course, I am being facetious. The first time we heard this name was a few weeks ago when preaching in Genesis 4. What do we know about that Lamech? He was of the line of Cain, and we know that Cain committed the first murder in the Bible when he killed his brother Abel. This Lamech has two wives which is the first time we hear of that, and it isn't a good thing. He brags in song/poem of murdering a young man because he had assaulted him. It is apparent that Lamech hasn't learned anything about the consequences of murder and God's value of human life. He takes things into his own hands, clearly communicating that he doesn't need God. Much of culture today has communicated the same lack of the need of God.

The Lamech we're looking at this morning comes from the line of Seth. We read that he had a son that he named Noah. The name means, "comfort," which matches what Lamech was expecting from his son.

"He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the Lord has cursed."

Where have we heard about this curse earlier in Genesis? It is part of God's judgment on Adam for his disobedience in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:17–19 To Adam he (God) said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. **18** It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. **19** By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

What is Lamech expecting from Noah? Arnold Fruchtenbaum believes, and I concur, that Lamech is expecting Noah to be the promised deliverer, the Messiah. Lamech is recognizing that Noah is going to be used by God in a great way, but we know that it isn't the way Lamech was thinking. Through Noah, people will have the opportunity to be saved from the world-wide flood. Unfortunately, as we will see in further study in Genesis, not many will heed his warning. In fact, only his wife, three sons (Shem, Ham, and Japheth) and their wives will actually get on the ark while the rest of mankind will perish. In this, we have some foreshadowing of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, who will come to earth to as a baby to live, die, and rise again to provide the opportunity for people to be delivered from eternal separation from God in hell because of their sin.

Lamech recognizes that Noah will play an important role in the plan of God, just not the role he was envisioning. The second thing we see is:

THE REASON

Genesis 6:8

What is the reason that Noah will be used by God and what is the reason behind how he is described in Genesis 6:9?

Genesis 6:8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD

This verse comes immediately after God's pronouncement of judgment on all of humanity for their incredible evil they were committing. This is only after 10 generations from Adam!!

Why did God use Noah? It is because of God's favor. Another word for favor could be grace. Notice that Noah did not earn God's favor; he found favor in the eyes of the Lord. This is the first time we see this word in the Bible, but we see that Adam and Eve found grace in the garden after their sin. What did they deserve after their disobedience? Death!! After the sin of Adam and Eve we see, not only God's judgment on the serpent and Adam and Eve but His grace in announcing the promised deliverer.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

The judgment and grace of God were found to be operating at the same time. God's grace, mercy, and judgment are found through the pages of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. Why did God show His love and grace to the Israelites, His chosen people?

Deuteronomy 7:7–8 The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. **8** But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

God loved Israel because He loved Israel. Why did God show His love to you and me? Because He loved you and me. God didn't look down and say, "Now, there's a great person for me to love. They have so many talents, abilities, and gifts that I can choose. I pick them."

James Montgomery Boice: "Notice that Noah did not earn grace. Noah found grace. He was willing to accept God's judgment on his sinful and rebellious nature and place his hope in the Savior. It is the same today. We have no claim

on God. We have not earned anything but His just wrath and our eventual destruction. But we can find God's grace in Christ."

If you know Christ as Savior and Lord all the glory goes to God for your salvation. There is nothing you and I can do to earn God's favor or grace. Let us do what we read in Hebrews 13:15.

Hebrews 13:15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name.

The Apostle Paul believed grace was so important that he included it in the greeting section of each of his letters. He also joined that with peace because it is because of the grace of God that you and I can have peace with God. In every epistle he wrote he included "*grace and peace from God the Father,*" and in every letter except Colossians he included: "*grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*" Without the grace of God we are still in our sins and rightfully under the judgment and condemnation of God!

So, we see the recognition (God has a plan for Noah), the reason (it's all of grace) and finally:

THE RESULTS

Genesis 6:9

When someone encounters the grace of God and comes to faith in Christ, they are never the same, and this is true of Noah.

Genesis 6:9 This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.

There are 3 things that are mentioned here.

1) "*Noah was a righteous man:*" Please note the order here. Some would like to say that it is because Noah was a righteous man that he earned the favor of God. It is just the opposite! That is, because Noah *found favor* (didn't earn it) with God that he was righteous.

There are two things I would like us to notice in this description. The first is our standing. The moment any person comes to faith in Christ they are declared righteous. The Apostle Paul speaks of the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

Philippians 3:7–9 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. **8** What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

As God looks at the believer He sees the righteousness of Christ. Not only is the believer declared righteous, but he is also empowered to live a righteous life. This is to be our practice. The believer lives differently. Sometimes I wonder if one of the reasons some who profess to know Christ but don't live for Him is because we don't speak of repentance in coming to faith. Jesus said, "Repent and believe" (Mark 1:15). It's a recognition of the need to turn from our sins and head in a different direction. Nobody can do this on their own power.

Noah also preached righteousness:

2 Peter 2:5 if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others;

2) "*blameless among the people of his time:*" These two ideas: "*righteous man*" and "*blameless among the people:*" cover both the inward and outward facets of a right standing before God and right practice in how we live. We need to be given the righteousness of God through faith in Christ before we have the power to live righteous lives. We must have a heart change before we can ever hope to have a life change.

ILLUS.: Physically speaking, if a person has a blockage in their heart that needs to be taken care of for the rest of the body to function well. When it comes to our spiritual life every person is born with a heart problem and the only cure is a new heart.

This was one of the major problems that Jesus had with the religious leaders of His day. They had come up with all kinds of laws for people to attempt to follow even though they couldn't even follow them.

Matthew 23:25–28 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. **26** Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean. **27** “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones and everything unclean. **28** In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Matthew 15:16–20 “Are you still so dull?” Jesus asked them. **17** “Don’t you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? **18** But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man ‘unclean.’ **19** For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. **20** These are what make a man ‘unclean’; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him ‘unclean.’ ”

James Montgomery Boice in speaking of these two words, *righteous* and *blameless* says, “The idea seems to be that Noah acted uprightly before the Lord but also that he acted in such a way as to appear blameless in the eyes of the watching world.”

Every believer needs to ask, “What is my testimony like before the world who needs Jesus?” They may not agree with what we say about Jesus but is how we live consistent with what we say we believe. Noah must have had quite a testimony as we consider how sinful the world had become.

3) “*he walked with God:*” we went over this phrase last week when it is used of Enoch.

*There is an ongoing and growing relationship with God. Do we have a desire to pray, read the Bible, and be under Biblical teaching?

*There is a willingness to obey what God’s Word says, even if it is difficult and unpopular.

*There is a growing understanding of the holiness of God and my natural bend towards sin.

When God shows His favor/grace upon a person they are NEVER the same!!

SO WHAT???

UNC Coach says: ‘Foundation is Christ’

First-year UNC coach Hubert Davis was asked about his faith during a press conference introducing him as the new coach of the University of North Carolina Tar Heels in April 2021.

He said, “[Faith is] the most important thing to me. My faith and foundation [are] firmly in my relationship with Jesus. It just is. And my mother was a Christian and she begged me to go to church growing up. And I didn’t want to go. I wasn’t interested in it. My mom used to always say that Jesus had a plan for me. And at the time growing up, I didn’t understand it and I didn’t listen to it.”

Davis said he grew a tremendous hatred toward God after his mother passed away in high school. His animosity continued into his first two years at UNC. He couldn’t reconcile what his mom had told him with the pain of her loss.

Davis continued, “One of the things that [legendary Tar Heels coach Dean] Smith used to do was make all the freshmen go to church. And as I went to church, only because Coach Smith and (assistant) Coach Guthridge encouraged me to go to church, I started to understand what my mom was talking about. I started to understand the sacrifice that Jesus made for me and how much He loves me, and two days before my junior year of college, I became a Christian.

Instead of being upset that Jesus has taken away the most beautiful person in my life in my mom, I’m thankful every day that He gave me the best that I could ever have for 16 years. ... My faith in Christ is the foundation of who I am.”

Source: Kevin Mercer, “First-year UNC coach Hubert Davis reaches 20 wins with Christ as ‘foundation of who I am,’ *Sports Spectrum* (2-23-22)

*Who or what is the foundation of my life?

*Have I come to know the amazing grace of God?

*Do others know of my testimony of faith?

*Every day from now through Thanksgiving write how God has blessed me and share it with someone