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Council Bluffs, Iowa

Series: Living Your Faith

Sermon: 3 of 4

Date: July 19, 2009

THREE BLESSINGS

I have a sermon with three titles—yes, three titles. It's the only sermon I have with three titles. I've never heard another sermon with three titles, but this one has three. One title is for you, and you must choose which one is your title.

I'm going to the Bible, Romans chapter 8, and I find all the verses for my three titles in there. In Romans 8:1, I find the first one. Verse 1 says, *"There is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus."* Wow! The word is condemnation. That's a long word. What does it mean? It means "go to hell." That's what it means. The verse says there is no "go to hell" for those in Christ Jesus.

I'm going to tell you the three titles. One title is "Three Blessings for Christians." Title two is "Three Reasons to Become a Christian." Title three is "Three Reasons to Become a Missionary."

In verse 1, we already learned one reason for a Christian to receive a blessing—that is there is no condemnation, no "go to hell." That's wonderful! Also in verse 1 we find one reason to become a Christian—because, you see, if you are not a Christian, you will go to hell. You cannot go to heaven. Jesus is the only way there. And if you are following Jesus, you are a Christian. Remember title three? Verse 1 is also a good reason to become a missionary—telling, telling, telling people about that verse and about Jesus, because everybody needs to know that.

Go to verse 11 of Romans chapter 8, and that verse says, *"If God's Spirit lives in you, God will also make alive your body by His Spirit."* Wow! Make alive my body. That's okay. My body will die, but God will make it alive to join again with my spirit to live forevermore in heaven. Take a look at me. What do you see? You see a red tie and a blue coat. You see a man. Maybe you think I'm Duane King. But I'll tell you something...you can't see ME. You see my body. Duane lives in this body on earth, and one day my body will die. But not ME. I will live forevermore. How do I know that? Because Jesus said, *"He who lives and believes in Me shall never die."* Jesus said that. That means, because I live and believe in Jesus, I will never die. My body will die—you are invited to my funeral. Maybe you'll want to come because I'm planning on having ice cream after the funeral! But don't you come to that funeral, look down into the casket and say, "Oh, Duane, I'm so sorry you're dead." Because I won't be dead—I'll be alive! If I could, I'd sit right up and tell you, "I'm alive." Wow! If I did that, probably you'd die! But I will live forever.

My third-grade teacher (I was in the same room for the fourth grade, but that teacher taught both third and fourth grades, so I had passed!) taught me that people came across the ocean to Florida looking for a fountain of water that would help them to never die. They'd stay young. It was called the "Fountain of Youth." I was there. I saw the place. I went to Florida and looked around. There were many, many, many old people drinking water—special water, but it doesn't keep you alive forever. Jesus said, "*I am the living water.*" That's Jesus. Drink of Him. Connect yourself to Jesus, and you will be with me. You will never die. Many people say Christians have "life after death." That's okay, but really the best way to say it is that Christians have "life"—they never die. It's wonderful! That is a blessing for Christians. That is a good reason to become a Christian. That is a good reason to become a missionary, because everybody needs to know about that. We must tell them.

Now, verse 16 of Romans 8 says, "*The Spirit proves that we are children of God.*" Then verse 17 says, "*If we are children, then we are heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.*" Wow! Do you think Jesus will have it okay in heaven? Sure. That verse says I am a joint heir with Jesus Christ. What Jesus has, I will have equally. That's wonderful.

I am the last of four brothers—Doug, Don, Dean and me. Doug is the oldest; he should inherit. Don helped Mom in the house; he should inherit. Dean helped Dad on the farm; he should inherit. Me? I was last. I was little. I should not inherit equally with them, but I did. And in heaven, you and I are not good enough to be equal with Jesus. But we will inherit equally. How wonderful! That is a blessing for Christians. That is a good reason to become a Christian. That is a good reason to become a missionary, because everybody needs to know that.

1-2-3. Choose your title. Are you already a Christian? Then rejoice and put a smile on your face because you have blessings. You're not a Christian? Oh, my goodness. Hurry, hurry, become a Christian. Are you lazy and not sharing the Gospel with other people? They need to know. Hurry up and share with them. You see, my sermon has three titles. 1-2-3. Pick yours and then do something about it.



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