

Current Positional Truth: Barrows's "The Blessing of Grace": Blessings from God after the Fall Greater than Those Before It; If Spiritual Death Rules through Adam, Much More the Gift of Righteousness Makes Possible Escrow Blessings; Conveyance of Nikes Only Possible through Capacity: 10 Principles Related to Spiritual Growth, Rom 5:17

- (10) The blessings provided after the fall thus became greater than those enjoyed prior to it. Comparisons between the two are the subject of a lyric written by Carla Cameron Barrows.
- (11) Carla, a member of Berachah Church, wrote lyrics to several well-known melodies that have been sung here at Grace Doctrine church. To Edward Elgar's trio in *March No. 1 in D: Pomp and Circumstance* (Opus 39), she composed "Land of Hope and Glory" and to Ludwig van Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" from his *Symphony No. 9 in D minor* (Opus 125), she wrote "Praise the Lord the Prince of Glory." She also fashioned from the Irish folk tune, "The Wearing of the Green," a hymn that compares blessings after the fall with those before, which she entitled:

The Blessings of Grace

(Words: Carla Cameron Barrows; Music: traditional Irish ballad)

The paradise of perfect man is sought by one and all.
Yet matchless grace provides much more than love before the fall.
From Eden's tree to Cavalry, the plunder can't compare!
One day his gain the world to reign, but heavens we shall heir!

Greater blessing than the garden now in time is God's decree.
And His justice has secured them throughout all eternity.
One man, one sin and love no longer blessed the human race.
One Christ, one cross exchanged the loss for glories of His grace!

From one man's sin, the human trend enslaves each one at birth.
Yet Christ who died has justified His royalty on earth.
Though cherub swords guard Eden's doors from evil, good, and sin,
Those who are wise find paradise from truth they guard within.

Greater blessing than the garden now in time is God's decree,
And His justice has secured them throughout all eternity.
God, who's glorified by blessing those who daily seek His face,
Protects His own from world and flesh by wonders of His grace!

- (12) Sin removed man from contact with the love of God therefore his access to the tree of life had to be removed. Cherubs guarded the doors preventing reentry while justice became the point of contact for the human race.
- (13) Condemnation became the foundation from which grace could provide a solution that is greater than the perfect environment of Eden.
- (14) The solution was a divinely contrived provision of a Mediator that would resolve the enmity that occurred at the fall.
- (15) That solution, in the fullness of time, became Jesus of Nazareth whose work on the cross removed the sin problem allowing justice to justify any who believed in Christ for salvation through faith alone in Him.

- (16) What this circumstance proves is that perfect environment is no match for the machinations of man when confronted with satanic propaganda.
- (17) There is a perfect environment in which man can be sustained in the hostile environment of the devil's world: the encapsulated environment of the operational divine dynasphere in which the filling of the Holy Spirit conveys advanced thought by which the believer defends his soul against all encroachments attempted by the sin nature's agent provocateurs and the world's cosmic propaganda.

Romans 5:17 - For if [εἰ (ei)]: introduction to a 1st class condition] by the transgression of one man [Adam's original sin] death [spiritual] ruled through one man [Adam, and it did], much more they who receive in life the surplus of grace [blessing from maturity adjustment], and the gift of righteousness, they shall reign through the one, Jesus Christ."

- (1) Again Paul begins with the protasis of a first class conditional sentence followed by a fortiori logic as an introduction to the apodosis.
- (2) Paul's logic takes the most difficult thing for the justice of God to do, e.g., provide a system by which sinful man can be justified and then conclude that with greater reason—and therefore with far less effort—God can do the less: provide blessings for those who advance in His plan.
- (3) In verse 15, Paul establishes as fact that if the fall of man resulted in our condemnation, then with greater reason—and therefore with far less effort—God can provide superabundance of blessings through the grace gift of Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:15 - But not as the original sin of Adam is the gift [the spiritual death of Christ] that results from grace [the unfailing love of God]. For if [εἰ (ei)]: introduction to a 1st class condition] by means of that transgression [παράπτωμα (paraptōma): the original sin] of that one man [Adam] the many died [spiritual death], and they did, much more then, to a greater degree—a fortiori—the grace of God and the gift of grace [δωρεά + χάρις (dōria + charis): the person and work of Christ producing the availability of salvation] through the one Man, Jesus Christ, who provided superabundance of blessings [escrow conveyance in time and therefore eternity] to the many who are mature believers.

- (4) All blessings from God come from the source of divine justice to the target of the believer's imputed righteousness, i.e., the grace pipeline.
- (5) Imputed righteousness sets up the potential for blessing while spiritual growth provides the capacity for blessing.
- (6) Divine justice will not impute blessings if the believer does not have the capacity for them. The word *capacity* is critical to understand the principle behind the imputation of blessings:

Capacity: An individual's mental ability: aptitude, skill. The faculty or potential for experiencing or appreciating. The power to produce, perform, or deploy.¹

Capacity: The ability to receive, hold, or absorb. The ability to learn or retain knowledge. The ability to do something.²

Ability: A natural or acquired skill or talent. **Synonym:** Capacity refers to the condition that permits one to acquire that power. Skill implies recognized ability acquired or developed through experience.³

Capacity: Mental ability; as, instruction should be adapted to the *capacity* of the pupil.⁴

- (7) Notice how these definitions apply to the believer's spiritual growth: (1) as one grows in grace his mental abilities increase; (2) in the mechanics of spiritual growth he learns to function under the three spiritual skills, (3) as he grows in grace he begins to develop experiential sanctification, the absorption of truth that flushes out human viewpoint and replaces it with divine viewpoint, (4) the development of appreciation for the clarity and accuracy of divine thought and doctrine, (5) the process of producing divine good by performing good works, and deploying problem-solving devices, (6) the ability to receive information, to retain it in long-term memory, and embellish principles by associating them with other relevant doctrines, (7) the ability to retain knowledge provides the necessary inventory to apply it to life and circumstances, (8) the ability to do these things is acquired through the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit and the power of the Word of God, (9) Skill is a developed and ability attained through experience, and (10) mental ability is directly related to the capacity of the pupil to understand what is taught.

¹ *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed., s.v.: "capacity."

² *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, s.v.: "capacity."

³ *Ibid.*, s.v.: "ability."

⁴ *Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary of the English Language: Unabridged*, 2d ed., s.v.: "capacity."