

THE ABUNDANT LIFE

by Jackson Morro

© 2008 by Christ's Chapel
Fall River, Massachusetts

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Version of the Bible.

Printed in the United States of America
All rights reserved

Christ's Chapel
PO Box 3182
Fall River, MA 02722

CHAPTERS

INTRODUCTION

THE ABUNDANT LIFE

THE FRUITFUL LIFE

THE GREATER WORKS

MUCH MORE

THE ABUNDANT LIFE

INTRODUCTION

Hello and God bless you.

In John 10:10, the Lord Jesus Christ stated that He had come so that we might have life and have it abundantly, to its fullest. I believe that this is an absolute truth and promise from the Lord Jesus that is valid for all times, even if the world goes through a confusing period of turmoil (Psalm 46). Even the prophet Jeremiah, who issued a scorching word of prophetic judgment to his backslidden nation, stated the great hope and promise to God's faithful people, "'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.'" (Jeremiah 29:11-13)

I believe God's promise of an abundant life for His believers is absolutely for all times and is not dependent upon outward circumstances. I also believe that His abundant life is intimately linked with obedience to His will and plan for each individual life. We have a prototype of this plan in the very first chapter of the Book of Jeremiah where God calls Jeremiah to be His prophetic voice in Jeremiah 1:1-19. In this chapter, God promises Jeremiah that he will have 1) provision, 2) protection, and authority as he obeys God's will and plan for his life. I believe God also makes the same absolute promise of divine provision, protection and authority to each believer who embraces and obeys God's plan for their life. This is the Abundant Life.

The four chapters of this book are basically transcripts of four different television programs produced by Christ's Chapel. They were originally four separate, unconnected Bible studies from our ongoing television series, Words of Life. After prayer and reflection, I became aware that these four diverse programs actually composed a coherent unit about the subject of the abundant life. Thus, I have presented them in this booklet form.

Take care and God bless you.

Jackson Morro, Pastor

October 2008

CHAPTER ONE

THE ABUNDANT LIFE

The Lord Jesus Christ said, in John 10:10, “I have come that you might have life and have it in its fullest.” The King James version of the Bible states “...that you might have it [life] abundantly.” God wants His people to have godly success. We can think of the old Italian grandmother who, after preparing a big spaghetti meal for a large family, stated, “Abondanza!” True success is having an abundant possession of the life and presence of God in us. True joy and happiness does not consist of an accumulation of things, but rather finding out God’s will for our life, why He put you on this earth, and then obeying that will or plan for your life. The very first part of God’s will for everyone is that we have His Son, Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, that we have a personal relationship with Jesus. Real success is having a personal relationship with Jesus. Failure is not having a personal relationship with Jesus.

Do you really want to be a successful person? Do you really want the abundant life Jesus said He wants you to have? The Word of God gives us God’s formula and God’s recipe for such a life, but we must pay careful attention to God. Whenever Jesus said something very important, He always said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” In other words, if you’ve got ears, use them now and listen!

1) **MOST IMPORTANT: SUCCESS STARTS WITH HAVING JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR.** It means the risen Lord comes to live in your heart. It means the forgiveness of past sins. It means a brand new start. It means the power of God in your life. Ultimately, it means the guarantee of eternal life in heaven when you leave this earth. It also means turning away from the world and its sinful ways to follow the Lord Jesus with all your heart and a life surrendered to Him.

2) **BELIEVE THE TRUTH THAT GOD WANTS YOU TO BE A SUCCESS.** God didn’t create you so you would fail. God desires you to be a success. God is on your side; He created you to fulfill a certain purpose on earth. God doesn’t fight against you to push you down. Sometimes other people do. Sometimes satan and his demonic forces do and try to get you to fail. Sometimes even you can be your own worst enemy. But God created you to be a success.

3) **SUCCESS IN LIFE COMES BY FINDING OUT GOD’S SPECIFIC**

PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE AND THEN DOING IT! God put you on this earth to fulfill a certain purpose while you are here. Find out what God's plan for your life is and then JUST DO IT! So many people just "miss the boat" right here and either rebel against God's plan or just never find out what it is. And they waste their lives. If you don't know God's plan for you, ask Him in prayer. He'll show you. It will actually be something you might enjoy. Trust God. If you ask God about it, He will show you.

4) TREASURE THE WORD OF GOD AND SEEK THE WISDOM OF GOD. God's Word will lead you on the right path when you have to make decisions. It will give you insight and wisdom into life's situations. If you apply God's Word and God's wisdom in your life, you will become a person of integrity, love and wisdom.

Wisdom helps you to make good decisions. Your life today is largely a result of decisions you made in the past. You can see the effects of your good decisions and your bad decisions. Your life tomorrow is going to be a result of the decisions you make today. Isn't it a good thing, then, for you to start making wise decisions today so you'll have godly success tomorrow?

5) MAKE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS YOUR GUIDE. BUT MAKE JESUS' TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS YOUR GOAL. The Ten Commandments which God gave to Moses are an excellent moral guide for any person's life. If you make them your moral code, you'll never hurt anyone. But the Lord Jesus took these commandments to a higher level when He gave the two great commandments in Mark 12:29-31 that we should love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and that we should love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Don't just stop at "not doing wrong," but become the powerful, dynamic person that Jesus called you to be and put love into action in all that you do. This world needs more of the love of God manifested in it through the life of Christ-like Christians. If you truly bring God's love to your world, you will be a success.

6) DARE TO BELIEVE THAT THE RISEN CHRIST WILL BACK UP HIS WORD WHEN YOU STEP OUT IN FAITH TO MINISTER HIS LOVE AND HEALING POWER TO OTHERS. Whatever job or career God may call you to, your first job is always to be conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29). That means you are called to minister His love and healing power to those He brings across your path. We do that by putting into practice the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Bible and

applying them with faith to our every life situation.

Where are you today? Are you on God's road to His abundant life for you? Are you walking successfully in the plan the Lord Jesus has for you? The great and wonderful thing about our God is that He always has a way back for us, no matter how far off course we may have gotten.

Any of us who have traveled by car may have an occasion when we've gotten lost. We may have taken a wrong turn or missed the right exit on a road. Even though we are lost, however, there is always a way back. We only stay lost if we choose to keep going in the wrong direction. We have to stop. We may have to ask directions. But then we must actually turn around and start going in the right direction to get back to our destination. THERE IS ALWAYS A WAY BACK. THERE IS ALWAYS A ROAD THAT WILL GET US BACK TO WHERE WE SHOULD BE. In the spiritual realm, that road back is a person, the person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus boldly said of Himself, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except by Me." (John 14:6) If you come to Him and seek His will and His path FROM THE DEPTHS OF YOUR HEART, He will supernaturally begin to change the circumstances of your life and arrange events in your life to get you back on the path He has for your personal plan and enjoyment of the abundant life He has for you.

Let's simply pray right now:

"Lord Jesus Christ, I believe You spoke the truth in John 10:10 when You said You had come so that I might have life and have it abundantly. I believe by faith You really have a perfect plan and path for my life. Today, I totally surrender my life and my will to Your plan for me. I promise to the best of my ability, through Your grace, to live my life according to Your Word, the Bible. I promise to always do my best to do the things I know You want me to do. If you clearly show me I should change something in my life, I promise to give priority to changing it to please You. If I don't know what to do in a certain situation, I will always seek Your guidance and ask You to supernaturally direct my path in the correct way as You promised in Proverbs 3:5-6. Above all, I want my life to glorify and please You. Amen."

CHAPTER TWO THE FRUITFUL LIFE

In the Gospel of John, Chapter 15, verse 6, Jesus stated, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give to you.” God the Father created every human being to have a fruitful life - a life that counts for something. God intends for each life to grow, expand, and bear fruit each in its own unique way. That’s God’s plan for my life; it’s God’s plan for your life. God has set down specific ways that apply to everyone so that every life can produce its own unique fruitfulness. In this chapter, we are going to examine God’s Three Great Mandates (or Commands) and God’s Three Great Principles (or Rules) for a productive, fruitful life.

In the Book of Genesis, Chapter 1, we see God commanding every living thing that He created to be fruitful and multiply. They were to make an impact and be productive. Each living thing was to have a meaning and an influence that went beyond the limits of its own individuality. We see God giving man, the masterpiece of His creation, a special pattern for man’s fruitfulness.

First, let’s look at God’s Three Great Mandates (or Commands):

#1 THE GREAT MANDATE OVER CREATION - In Genesis 1:26-28, God stated, “Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them; and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’” We then read in Genesis 2:15, “Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.” God first told man to be a ruler and a steward over creation. Man was to be like God over the created earth, bringing order into the environment and developing the potentialities within the world that God had created. Man was to keep the garden and cultivate it - to dress it and put man’s own stamp of creativity on the world. Man was to develop government and social order according to godly principles.

For example, electricity always existed, but it was not a productive factor until man discovered it and how to use it. The principles of flight always

existed, but were not productive until man discovered and harness them. God's first mandate or command to man enabling him to have a fruitful life is to be a responsible ruler and steward over the planet and environment which God has given him.

#2 THE GREAT MANDATE OF LOVE - God's second great command involves our relationship with others. In Matthew 22:37-40, the Lord Jesus Christ stated, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

Although it's important to take care of the planet and develop the resources and potentialities God has placed in it, there is a much higher dimension and far more important priority we must have - that is our relationship with God and with each other. Although the mandate over creation may have been given by God first in terms of chronology, God's command to love is first in the order of the spiritual realm and, therefore, the absolutely most important mandate. It's not enough to have scientific and technological progress - our relationship with God and with each other must be governed by love. Technology and scientific development can be used for every cruel, horrible purposes if there is no love in our heart. God has commanded us that we love each other, that our human relationship be governed by love, We are to love each other the same way God's Son Jesus loves us. In John 13:34-35, Jesus stated, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." It is only through love that we will have a fruitful life. Progress, technology and development will never bring true fruitfulness; only godly, healthy relationships grounded in love will bring eternal fruit.

#3 THE GREAT COMMISSION - God has a third great commandment that goes beyond our stewardship over creation and our personal relationships. It is most important: it deals with the issue of salvation and eternal life. Hence, we get the third great commandment known as the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-28):

18And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the

*name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
20teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you
always, even to the end of the age.”*

We have the command to bring the Gospel to all people and make disciples of all nations. This is the highest dimension of reality that is necessary for a fruitful life: the restoration of our broken relationship with God. It is only when this world has peace with God through faith in His Son Jesus Christ that this world will be truly fruitful and our individual lives will be truly fruitful. Without the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives, the true Fatherhood of God will never be realized and the reality of sin and death will pollute, ruin and ultimately destroy every attempt at a fruitful life. Not only should we be responsible stewards over the earth, not only should our relationships be ruled by love, but ABOVE ALL, we are to spread the Gospel of the forgiveness of sin and the obtaining of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ.

After giving us three great commands, God gives us three great rules to live by to have a fruitful life:

RULE #1 - Jesus tells us we must let our light shine (Matthew 5:14-16):

*14“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;
15nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the
lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.
16Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good
works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”*

Jesus, in effect, is telling us that we must not be afraid or timid in using our gifts or talents that God has given each one of us. It would not make sense to light a light and then cover it over with a basket so the light couldn't be seen. That would only be a waste of electricity! In John 8:12, Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." Here, in Matthew, He tells us, "You are the light of the world." Why? It is because we have His life within us. We are told to let our light shine. There are many wicked people who are letting their "darkness" shine, and they are not silent or timid about the evil things they support. For any Christian to stand in the background when they have an opportunity to shine their light before men is, really, false humility.

RULE #2 - It is our responsibility to develop our talents and use them in the

service of the Kingdom of God. In Luke 12:48, Jesus tells us that to whom much is given, much will be required. NO ONE HAS A RIGHT TO SIT BACK AND NOT DEVELOP THEIR GIFTS AND TALENTS FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD. The Lord Jesus told a parable in Matthew 25:14-30 about how each servant of God will be called to accountability as to how they developed and used the talents, gifts and opportunities that God placed in their hands to help build the Kingdom of God. This present world with all its addictions, divorce and violence is too broken, too sinful, and too dysfunctional for any Christian to not get involved in proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom of the forgiveness of sins, the receiving of eternal life, and the healing and restoration of every broken area in the life of every human being on the entire planet Earth.

RULE #3 - Above all, we must draw our strength from the risen Christ (John 15:4-6):

4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned."

To have a fruitful life, we must, above all, seek a constant, deep relationship with the Source of all heavenly power and authority, the Lord Jesus Christ. Our spiritual walk must be Christ-centered. We must draw strength from Him through prayer, reading scripture and spending time focused on Him in His presence. Furthermore, Jesus must be our model and our inspiration for all we do. He must be the One who gives us guidance, direction, and all our activity must be done in obedience to His plan for us and His Kingdom.

What about you today? Do you feel your life matters, that it counts for something? Most important, will your life matter for eternity? Is your life pleasing to God? Are you doing what REALLY matters?

Make that decision right now by asking Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, the Vine who gives life to the branches, to be the absolute, sovereign Lord of your life and commit to following Him all the remaining days of your life.

YOU HAVE ONE LIFE - IT WILL SOON PASS. ONLY WHAT'S DONE FOR CHRIST WILL LAST.

CHAPTER THREE THE GREATER WORKS

In the Gospel of John, Chapter 14, verse 12, the Lord Jesus Christ told His disciples, and us also, “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these shall he do because I go to the Father.” How awesome that is! Jesus said we would do the same kind of works He did in His ministry, but it wouldn’t stop there - we would do even greater works than He did because He was now glorified and sitting at the right hand of God Almighty, Our Heavenly Father. Jesus would be obtaining from Him and passing on to us all the power and resources we would need for a ministry of power to a dying world.

In John 14:12, Jesus promised His disciples they would be able to do the same works (miracles) He did, and in fact, do even greater works because Jesus was going to be with the Father. There was one condition for doing these greater works - that we believe in Him (Jesus). There was one method for obtaining the resources necessary to do the greater works - that we ask the Father in Jesus’ name. Finally, there was one purpose for the greater works - that God the Father would be glorified and seen as the Holy, True and Loving God that He really is by the work done in Jesus’ name.

Jesus’ promise of “greater works” for His Church and His believers includes:

- 1) Boundless possibilities - new methods and ways of reaching people and bringing the Good News of salvation and healing to the world.
- 2) Unlimited power - In Matthew 28:18, just before Jesus ascended to heaven, He gave His Church the Great Commission to go into all the earth and make disciples of all nations because all authority had been given to Him. In the Book of Acts, He promised His Apostles and us, that we would receive power to be His witnesses to the uttermost parts of the earth (Acts 1:8) and in Mark 16:15-18 that manifestations of the power of the Holy Spirit would accompany our proclamation of the Word of God.
- 3) Untold resources - The Jesus who multiplied bread and fish to feed the hungry crowds and who turned water into wine promised that we would have the unlimited resources of heaven to do the work of the ministry on earth.

With these great promises of Jesus, how can we, in fact, do the greater works? Jesus first of all stressed the importance of faith. He who believes in Him will do the greater works. To do the greater works requires two things:

1) A faith, a revelation in our heart, and an appropriation of what God says a situation should be. God sees each one of us complete in Jesus Christ (Colossians 2:9-10 states, “For in Him [Jesus] all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him [Jesus] you have been made complete.”) One key to doing the greater works is that we must realize that Almighty God already sees each one of us as complete in Jesus Christ because of the perfect work Jesus did through His life, death and resurrection. God also sees every problem as solved and every sickness as healed and every sin as forgiven because of Jesus’ work. Faith is when we appropriate Jesus’ provision for ourselves or for a ministry situation. Supernatural truth is that God sees us as complete in Christ. WE must see ourselves or the situation we face as complete in Christ. Supernatural truth must rule over natural appearances.

2) We don’t stop our faith because something doesn’t happen the same day we pray for it. Faith believes right to the end, until the promise comes to pass. In the Old Testament, God gave Abraham a promise that he and his barren wife Sarah would have a son Isaac and descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky. It took twenty-five years for the promise to come to pass, but Abraham believed in the integrity and truth of God’s promise, so he indeed saw “the greater works” of God in his life. Abraham’s case of a twenty-five year wait is an extreme example and most of us do not have to wait so long for the fulfillment of God’s promise, but it illustrates the irrevocable nature of a faith decision to see “the greater works.”

One thing we must also realize in our desire to see the greater works of God in our life is the necessity of living a holy life. Holiness is the key that unlocks God’s treasure house. One inescapable fact about Jesus is that He lived a holy, moral life. God, from the beginning of the Bible to the end, is a God of holiness. Jesus Himself, in Matthew 7:13-14, told His disciples that the “straight and narrow” road of morality was the way to life, while the “broad and wide” way of morality (the “anything goes” six-lane highway of morality) would lead to destruction. If we want to see God’s greater works in our life, we can’t travel the “six-lane highway of morality.” Hebrews 1:9 quotes Psalm 45:7 and states that it is the person who loves righteousness and hates iniquity that God will anoint with the oil of gladness (i.e., the

power of the Holy Spirit) above his fellows, or peers.

There is an example in the Old Testament of a man who saw the greater works of God in his life because he desired to live a holy life. His name was Daniel. We read in the Book of Daniel, Chapter 6, that while the Jews were in captivity to the Persians, the Persian King Darius was so impressed by Daniel's morality and honesty, that he made Daniel governor over one-third of the empire. The other two governors were so jealous that they tricked King Darius into signing an irrevocable law that for thirty days everyone had to pray to the king and not to any other god. Anyone disobeying would face the death penalty. They knew that every day Daniel prayed to the One, True, Living God and that he would not change. Sure enough, once the edict was issued, Daniel made the decision he would continue to pray to God no matter what the cost and he disobeyed the edict. Daniel's enemies immediately accused him to the king. The king was sad because he admired Daniel, but Darius had no choice. Daniel was put into a den of hungry lions for the night.

King Darius worried and fasted all night while Daniel was in the lion's den. In the morning, King Darius hurried to the lion's den to see if Daniel was still alive. Daniel stated that God had sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths and that he was all right. The king then released Daniel and had his enemies thrown into the lions' den. The enemies were immediately eaten by the hungry lions. Daniel saw the greater works of God in his life because he had a steadfast faith in God's promises and he lived a holy life. As the great Bible teacher Smith Wigglesworth once said, Daniel didn't get the victory when he was thrown into the lions' den; he got the victory long before that when he decided to disobey the king's edict and pray to God no matter what the cost would be. The Bible is filled with people who saw the greater works of God in their lives.

Today, I want to challenge you. Are you expecting to see the greater works of God in your life? I challenge you to pray for God's direction to HIS path for greater works - for Him to lead you into new opportunities for greater manifestations of His power in every area of your life for ministry, family life, business. If you are a student, I want to challenge you to expect God's greater works as you do your studies.

Or do you need to see God's greater works applied to a problem area of your life? More important, do you need the greatest work, the new birth into eternal life through Jesus Christ? You can have the greatest miracle of all, the miracle of eternal life and the forgiveness of sins by coming to God, repenting in your heart, giving Him your old life and asking Him for new life in Jesus Christ and making Jesus Christ Lord of your life.

CHAPTER FOUR MUCH MORE

Do you really believe that God loves you and that He has a good plan for your life? Do you really believe God is for you and not against you? Do you really believe God wants to heal you and deliver you from suffering? 3 John 2 states, “Beloved, I wish above all things that you prosper and be in health even as your soul prospers.” Do you believe that’s God’s wish for YOU as an individual? I do! I believe in a good God who wants to save people from sin and suffering and turn their lives into victory for His glory. As a pastor, I continually deal with people who believe that God will forgive their sins, but He’s not in the business of healing people or in making them successful by releasing them from suffering and failure. So many people think God doesn’t consider them “worthy” to be blessed. The truth of the matter is, however, that a loving, redeeming God wants to do much more for us than most of us believe. Often, my job as a pastor is to get people to believe in the “much more” that God wants to do for each of us. Now, we are going to look at God’s five “MUCH MORES” for us in Romans, Chapter 5.

Someone once said, “The Kingdom of God is really the army of Jesus Christ which goes forward in victory bringing redemption, healing, and liberation to those who are hurting and oppressed. It’s an army that only once in awhile stops to celebrate a victory, then marches on again to conquer darkness and sin.” God’s revelation of Himself through the life, death and resurrection of His Son Jesus clearly shows the human race that God is on the side of salvation, healing and victory in every area of life.

The very ministry of Jesus of Nazareth revealed God’s will to heal. In fact, the power of Jesus’ ministry is so far superior to any power of evil and suffering that any power of suffering or evil is not even on the same plane or level as Jesus’ power. So, too, even after Jesus tasted death on the cross, the power of the resurrection and what it makes available to believers is so far superior that any suffering Jesus endured for our sake is really dwarfed by the glory of His enthronement as Lord.

The very name “Jesus” means “Yahweh [the God of the Covenant] is salvation.” Everywhere Jesus went, He proclaimed it was the Father’s will to save and heal. Every time we use the name “Jesus” we say, “God [Yahweh] saves.” Jesus’ very identity is inescapably linked with salvation and healing.

One unfortunate wrong teaching we run into today is the teaching that while God will forgive our sins, He’ll also make us suffer to purify us or teach us holiness. We are not really worthy of living a life of blessing on this earth. Fortunately, this poor and erroneous theology is contradicted by the

ministry of healing and liberation which Jesus performed while on earth and which God has continued through the resurrection of Jesus and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon those who believe the Word of God. The biblical truth of the matter is that God, having forgiven our sins, wants to do much more in each of our lives. The Apostle Paul realized this as he wrote Chapter 5 of the Book of Romans. Paul lists five “much mores” that God wants to do for all of us.

I. ROMANS 5:8-9

8But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

This is God’s first “much more.” Because we have been justified by the blood of Jesus Christ through salvation, we are “much more” saved from the wrath of God. Technically speaking, the wrath of God is when He turns His back on sinners and allows them to reap the consequences of the evil actions they have sown. The wrath of God cuts a person off from receiving God’s life and glory. The end result of this separation is the punishment of spiritual death, destruction, confusion, and calamity. Because Jesus is our Lord and we accept what He did on the cross as God’s provision for us, God will never manifest any fury or anger against us. If God will justify us by our accepting Jesus, He will much more never display His wrath against us for Jesus’ sake.

II. ROMANS 5:10-11

10For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

11And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Here is God’s second “much more” for us. If God would take the first step to reconcile us to Himself while we were still His enemy, going on our own way in sin (notice, Paul tells us we were God’s enemy; God was never our enemy), if God would go to the extreme to bring reconciliation in our relationship with Him by having Jesus die for us, how much more is God

going to work to bring full salvation to us through the resurrected life of Jesus that He places within us? The Greek word for “salvation” here is *sozo*, which means healing and redemption for every area of our lives. *Sozo* includes not only the forgiveness of sins, but also spiritual empowerment, physical and emotional healing, and a successful, fruitful plan for each life. Having invested the life of His Son Jesus for us, God has a vested interest in seeing His children walk in victory for Jesus’ glory and for His glory.

III. ROMANS 5:14-15

14Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

15But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.

God’s third “much more” is the superior power of the free gift of grace through Jesus Christ. Sin and death are indeed powerful, destructive forces. They indeed cause suffering and sorrow when they rule. The power of the free gift of grace through Jesus Christ, however, is far superior. It is so superior that it totally vanquishes, conquers, and destroys the work of sin, suffering and death. The Kingdom of God, the power of Christ’s resurrection life, when accepted wholeheartedly in faith, always wins. There is no question of the indestructibility of the Kingdom of God. There is no question that God and His Son Jesus will manifest their total victory at the end of human history.

IV. ROMANS 5:17

17For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

God’s fourth “much more” for us is that we who have received the gift of grace and are clothed with God’s own righteousness through Jesus Christ, will be able to “much more” rule and reign in life through Jesus Christ. In other words, God has a plan for a victorious life for each one of His children. We are not just saved from our sins and then destined to be miserable and just “get by” until we get to heaven. God’s will for us is to walk in the

victory of Jesus' resurrection power in life - NOW - in this life while we're on the way to heaven. Jesus experienced the glorious victory of the resurrection because He obeyed the Father's plan. Jesus is now our Lord and He has a plan for each of us. As we obey that plan, each of us will experience a life of glorious victory. We will reign in life.

Consider the president of the United States. When he wants to go somewhere, he doesn't have to worry whether an airline can book a flight for him or if he can get a taxicab to take him across town. He's the president and he has all the authority and resources necessary to do his job. It's the same with Jesus' will for our lives. We each have a guarantee of all the authority and resources we need to do God's will. We cannot fail; we will rule and reign when we embrace the plan that our Lord Jesus Christ has for us and we obediently walk in that plan. God desires much more that we succeed in His plan so He can be glorified.

V. ROMANS 5:20-21

*20The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,
21so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

God's fifth "much more" is His promise that where sin abounds, grace will much more abound. One sin by the first man Adam brought the slavery of sin and death upon all humanity. But one act of obedience - Jesus freely offering Himself for us on the cross - brought forgiveness for all and the possibility of a life lived in the power of His resurrection. And the power of Jesus' act is much more than the disaster of Adam's act. This means that no matter how bad any situation appears to be, no matter how we may have failed or sinned, no matter how low we may feel at a given moment, there is always God's much more available to us if we'll stand up on the inside and believe in God's much more for us and believe it in our inner man and believe it with all our heart. The most heinous criminal has the possibility of redemption because Jesus died for him. Even the largest disaster can be turned around into a victory because Jesus died for the right to redeem it.

If you need God's much more in your life, start by making Jesus Christ the Lord of your life. Turn your life over to Him and follow Him with all your heart. Jesus Christ is the Fountain of God's "much more."

FREE OFFER

If you are interested in further reading and study, you may write for one of the following free books:

THE PROMISES OF GOD

THE HEALING JESUS

VICTORY IN JESUS

PHILIPPIANS' STUDY NOTES

Write to:

Christ's Chapel

PO Box 3182

Fall River, MA 02722

Or email: pastormorro@faithontheearth.com

* * *

We invite you to send any prayer requests you might have for prayer at our chapel prayer meetings. Send to:

Christ's Chapel

PO Box 3182

Fall River, MA 02722

Also write to be put on our mailing list to receive periodic letters. Let us know specifically if you'd like to receive the Daily Devotional.