



**G**REETINGS TO YOU ALL IN THE POWERFUL NAME OF JESUS! *I hope all of you are doing well—rejoicing with the Hope we have in Christ, praying constantly, giving thanks in everything because of His great love for us.*

## Blessed for the Sake of Another

This year, we finally finished up our Biblical Eschatology study. What was supposed to be a one year course turned into two! Although this is a complicated and controversial topic, I believe that eschatology is one of the more important areas of study as it helps us answer one of our core life questions: “Where are we heading?”

As we moved from creation to the rebellion of mankind to the Lord-God’s promises and plans that give shape to our future, at several points we touched upon a biblical principle that is at the heart of our hope. It first shows up clearly in the Abraham and Isaac narrative:

“The LORD appeared to [Isaac] and said, “...Live in the land that I tell you about; stay in this land as a foreigner, and I will be with you and bless you. For I will give all these lands to you and your offspring, and I will confirm the oath that I swore to your father Abraham. I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of the sky, I will give your offspring all these lands, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed

by your offspring, **because Abraham listened to My voice and kept My mandate, My commands, My statutes, and My instructions.**” (Genesis 26:2–5 )

Abraham has died and the Lord is passing the blessing and the promises to Isaac. The Lord has given the Land to the family of Abraham and it will be the place where the Lord makes His Name dwell. We know that these promises also set the stage for all the families of the earth being blessed through Jesus Christ. Their fulfillment is critical to God’s plan.

Notice WHY these promises are repeated to Isaac and made secure for his family: *Because Abraham listened to the Lord’s voice and obeyed Him!* Isaac is blessed not because of what he has done; He is blessed for his father Abraham’s sake—Isaac is blessed because of Abraham’s faithfulness.

Later, as David becomes King the principle shows up again:

“And David said, ‘Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan’s sake? Is there not still someone of the house of Saul,

## 25th Anniversary of TSF!

Believe it or not, TSF turns 25 this year! As I think back over my 18 years with the ministry and how the Lord has provided for us and carried us through, I am so thankful to be part of this work that began with Tom Murray in 1993. To celebrate, we are planning a dinner for **Tuesday, August 28** at Bellevue Baptist Church. We will be sending out invitations as the date gets closer. For now, mark that day on your calendars to reserve the date.

**that I may show the kindness of God to him?"** (2 Samuel 9:1-3)

You will remember that Jonathan was the son of King Saul (David's nemesis) and David's best friend, ally, brother-in-spirit. Both Saul and Jonathan have been killed. David has become King and he wants to show kindness to someone from Saul's family line *for Jonathan's sake*. David goes on to say that he wants someone to "*show the kindness of God to.*"

This is one of places where we truly see David as a "man after God's own heart" (see 1 Samuel 13:14, Acts 13:22). David thinks like the Lord-God thinks. David's grace and kindness represents His God's grace and kindness. He knows that the Lord is gracious and blesses those who may not necessarily deserve it for the sake of others who have been faithful.

You probably know the rest of this story. Mephibosheth, who is crippled, is brought to David and he restores his fortunes and gives him servants. From that day on, Mephibosheth eats at David's table in Jerusalem. Here is a man that is not deserving of David's blessing because of what he has done. But he is blessed for the sake of another; he is blessed because of David's faithful friend Jonathan.

The greatest example of this principle being worked out is Jesus' faithfulness winning many blessings for all of us who trust Him:

I am writing to you, little children, because **your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.** (1 John 2:12)

"He [Father God] made the One who did not know sin [Jesus] to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

*We have been richly blessed for Jesus' name sake!* We can give thanks and rejoice knowing that His faithfulness has provided not just one blessing for us, but "every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm" (Ephesians 1:30)

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## What's On the Web:

I wanted to remind you that our podcast, *Follow*

*Jesus for Life* is back up. The podcast will have audio of our current classes updated each week along with some news and special sessions throughout the year. You can find a link to the podcast feed on the home page of our website. You can also find us on iTunes podcasts on your phone or on iTunes by searching for *Truth Seekers Fellowship* or *Follow Jesus For Life*.

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## The Doctrine of Hell

Our buddy Seth Stevens, who now serves at First Evan, will be teaching on Hell Sunday nights this Summer. Unfortunately, he got sick for what would have been the first session. I was able to fill in for him and taught, "What Type of Person Ends Up in Hell." Although this is not a popular topic, it is an important topic to understand from a Biblical perspective. I have posted the first session to our podcast feed ([www.tsfmemphis.org/podcast/](http://www.tsfmemphis.org/podcast/)) and you will also be able to hear the series on First Evan's website: [www.firstevan.org/media](http://www.firstevan.org/media). I will be "team teaching" a few times with Seth throughout the summer. If you would like to join us, the evening service begins at 6PM at First Evangelical.

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## Please Pray for Us as We Pray for You

As we close this short update, could I ask you to continue praying for us? The Lord has been so gracious to us this year and provided for us in so many incredible ways. We continue to trust Him and rely on Him to provide for our needs through all of you who bless us for His sake! Would you please join us in praying for the following:

- For **wisdom to be pleasing to the Lord** in all things,
- For the **financial resources** we need this year to keep the ministry moving forward,
- I have a couple of discipleship, **MilktoMeat** groups that will continue meeting through the Summer - pray for the **spiritual growth** of the men in these groups,
- For **new opportunities for ministry**—new students, new areas of outreach.

I constantly give thanks for you all—our students and supporters—who have been and continue to be such a vital part of TSF.