

## The Christian – His Rights and Privileges

### Introduction

- A. There are no "second-rate" Christians – from the viewpoint of God's provision. All of us, to some extent, have made ourselves to be second-rate by the way we live!
- B. Every believer has been blessed with all spiritual blessings.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings (provision) in heavenly places in Christ. Ephesians 1:3

- c. When one becomes a believer, he is given all the provision, gifts, rights, and privileges, that he will ever need for time and eternity. This is not based on our goodness or merit – but solely on the mercy and grace of God. These are ours legally – and become a part of our experience – by faith.

### I. The Right and Privilege of Knowing the Will of God, John 7:17.

If any man will (choose) do his will he shall know the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

Comment: The principle stated here by the Lord Jesus is a comfort to every sincere believer. We do not have to "guess" about how to live. God has revealed His will in the Scripture and will enable any willing Christian to know and do His will. Too often we do not choose His will!

### II. The Right and Privilege of Knowing the Truth, John 8:32.

And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

Comment: Truth is one of our most valuable possessions. All life is based on its existence and practice. The area of life where truth is the most important – is the spiritual. Many know how to get to the moon, but not to heaven. We can know, and know for sure, as well as to how to live a successful Christian life.

### III. The Right and Privilege of Knowing Freedom from Sin, Rom. 6:6.

Knowing this, that our old man (all we were as unsaved) was crucified with him (the Lord Jesus), that the body of sin (the patterns of sin) might be destroyed (paralyzed), that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Comment: This verse is a declaration of the believer's freedom from sin. The bondage and control of sin can be broken in the life of the Christian – because of the power of the Crucifixion. We died with Christ. He dealt with our sin in such a way that we can free to live according to the truth of the Crucifixion – in the will of God – by faith. When we make such decisions, then God can help us.

IV. The Right and Privilege of Knowing Divine Providence, Rom.8:28.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.

Comment: God has promised that He will take every good and bad thing in our daily life and turn it into good – if we will cooperate with Him. He has the wisdom and power, as well as the desire to do so. When we want His will and obey Him daily in faith and love – then we will begin to see the fulfillment of this great promise.

V. The Right and Privilege of Knowing We are God's Temple, I Cor.3:16.

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

Comment: It is important to recognize that this verse states "ye are the temple of God" – not should or can be. When we were born again, through the work of the Holy Spirit, in that moment we became His dwelling place. As the Old Testament tabernacle and temple was characterized by the presence of God, so the believer can live in fellowship with God. Worship and obedience have an equal parallel.

VI. The Right and Privilege of Knowing the Power of God, I Cor. 6:9,10.

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers . . . And such were some of you, but ye are washed but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Comment: The Christian is one who not only knows about the great work of redemption provided by the Lord Jesus in His death and resurrection -- he knows this practically in the experience of salvation and the daily life. We have first hand knowledge of spiritual cleansing. Such information must first of all be practiced through obedience and then shared with those who may not know such truths.

Conclusion: These passages remind us that we do not have to go on living as second-rate Christians. The key to change is to practice the truth through decisions of faith and love.

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