

7-30-21

Here's Hope  
by Rev. Jerry Rea

### **One Blessing after Another**

At John 1:14 the apostle tells us that we have received "grace and truth" through Jesus, the Christ. The contrast is with Moses. God gave us the law through Moses and grace/ truth through Jesus. The law is good. It is stable, unchanging and foundational. Old Testament law is building blocks for the people of God. The clarity of instruction is powerful and practical for daily living. Then the New Testament gives us Jesus. He is the fulfillment of the Law. By His life He lived out the demands of the Old Testament covenant. He not only fulfilled the contract but gave us a new and powerful way to live with God. We can be in sync (fellowship) with God's forever laws, and in line with God's Spirit (which is love). Through Jesus we now live in the Spirit. Part of that new life (through Jesus) is constant blessing.

If we read further in John 1 we come to verse 16. In the NIV we are told that God gives us "one blessing after another." The KJV relates the idea as "grace for grace." Another version says it this way - "grace upon grace." Whichever version you use, the idea is the same; we receive blessing after blessing through Jesus. Here's a great thing about that. We not only receive grace when we begin with Jesus, but day after day after day. Often our expectation of grace (somehow) stops after we're saved. That's not what this text says. For the record (also) that's not what we've experienced. If you stop and think, you've receive grace from God "one blessing after another." Across the time-span of your life, God has always been faithful to provide for your various needs. His timing is not your timing. His provision is sometimes not just exactly what you think you need. His faithfulness, though, is priceless. He gives and gives and gives.

There's an Old Testament illustration of this that comes to mind. While the Israelites were working their way across the wilderness, they hit many a rough patch. They were in need of water. They needed bread. They got tired of bread and God sent quail. When enemies threatened God was faithful to deliver. Lest they get lost, they were given a pillar of fire at night and a pillar of cloud in the day. The wilderness was no wilderness because God was there. He gave them "one blessing after another." So God's provision was not "one and done." He gave blessings over and over and over. Consider the manna. It was God's bread every day. Over and over and over (while they were in the wilderness), God prepared breakfast. They were to gather just enough for that one day, trusting God to provide for tomorrow. The manna did not stop till the wilderness journey was ended. When they went into the Promised Land, it stopped because they didn't need it any more.

Friend, God knows your need. Looking out into the future you cannot know what your needs are but God does. Because of how God has provided, we ought to learn to trust Him. We need trust that He will give our daily bread. It seems like I remember that phrase. Did Jesus not

teach us to pray for “our daily bread”? We ask and God provides, grace upon grace. Or maybe you like it better “one blessing after another.”

The future might even be a wilderness but God provides!

Jerry Rea