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## THE BIBLE VIEW

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### What Do We Have?

*Bill Brinkworth*

From time to time one hears a complaining Christian murmur, "I am a Christian. I can't do this or that." They sound like they do not enjoy being a Christian. They forget who they are, and what they really have. Romans 8 reminds us of some of the many advantages of being a Christian. When we are saved, the blessings include:

- We are not condemned (vs. 1) for the many sins we have committed. We are headed to Heaven and not Hell!  
*"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Romans 8:1*

Matthew Henry wrote, "Paul does not say, 'There is no accusation against them,' for this there is; but the accusation is thrown out, and the indictment quashed. Paul does not say, 'There is nothing in them that deserves condemnation,' for this there is; and they see it, and own it, and mourn over it, and condemn themselves for it; but it shall not be their ruin. He does not say, 'There is no cross, no affliction to them or no

displeasure in the affliction,' for this there may be; but no condemnation. We are protected from the law's judgment on our sins because of Christ."

- We have the opportunity to be led by the indwelling Spirit of God. We do not have to follow the flesh that only wants to do what feels right to it, and leads us to commit damaging sin and the ruining of our life. We can follow God's perfect, safe guidance (vs. 5).
- Because we can follow the Spirit of God, we can please God (vs. 8). Before the Spirit guided us, we did not please God.
- We are "sons of God" (vs. 14). We are born into the family of God (John 3:3).
- We are adopted into God's family, when we are saved (vs. 15). He is our "Abba," our Father. There is no greater honor than to be able to call the Creator of everything "Father." We can, once we are saved!
- We are no longer bound by sin, we are freed from its control (vss. 15-16).
- The indwelling Spirit lets us know that we are different; we are children of God (vs. 16).
- When we love God, we know that all that happens to us will turn out for our good and God's glory (vs. 28). There is no more need to be afraid, because God is for you (vs. 31).
- No person or circumstance can separate us from our loving God (vss. 35-39).

So, praise the Lord! If you are saved, you are on the winning side. We should not want to do wrong, sinful

things, as they are not worthy of a child of the King! You have much for which to be thankful.

**“If you live for God, you might miss some things: drunkenness, AIDS, divorce, jail, unnecessary grief, etc.”** — *Barbara Brinkworth*

## **A Christian’s “Clothing”**

*Spencer, 1871*

They that put on the Lord Jesus (Romans 13:14) are “clothed” with a four-fold garment:

1. With a garment of Christ’s imputed righteousness.
2. With a garment of sanctification.
3. With a garment of protection.
4. With a garment of glory.

The first “garment” may be called a winter’s garment, because it covers us. The second, a summer’s garment, because it adorns us. The third, a coat of armour, because it keeps us safe. The fourth, a wedding garment, because there is no admission to the Supper of the Lamb without it.

The first three may be called our work-day suits, because we must put them on all the days of our lives. The fourth is our holiday suit, because we can not put it on till the weeks of our pilgrimage through this life are ended and a new one begins in the New Jerusalem. We certainly are well-dressed!

**“Instead of grumbling about the things you don’t have, make a list of what good things you do have. The list should show you have more than you deserve!”**

## **The Loveliest to God**

*John Bates*

One tiny violet growing modestly under a dominating hedge-row possesses more fragrance and loveliness than all the flora that surrounds it. So, one humble and faithful Christian is more fragrant and lovely to Heaven, than are a hundred men who are living in the showy vanities of sin.

**“When life is not a bed of roses, remember who wore the crown of thorns.”**

## **The Keeper’s Light**

*Author Unknown*

A traveler visiting the lighthouse at Calais said to the keeper, “What if one of your lights should go out at night?”

“Never. Impossible!” cried the keeper. “Sir, yonder are ships sailing to all parts of the world. If tonight one of my burners were out, in six months I will hear from America, or India, saying that on such a night the lights at Calais lighthouse gave no warning, and some vessel had been wrecked. Ah, sir! Sometimes I feel, when I look upon my lights, as if the eyes of the whole world were fixed upon me. Go out! Burn dim! Never! Impossible!”

What a lesson to the Christian! It is no romance which makes the Christian a spiritual lighthouse for the world, with the eyes of the whole world upon him. Let then, his example be full, bright, and clear. The moment he neglects it, and leaves his “lamps” (his personal testimony) untrimmed, some poor soul, struggling amid the waves of temptation, will be dashed upon the rocks of destruction for lack of a good, Christian testimony to show them a way to safety.

**“One example is worth a thousand arguments.”** — Gladstone

## What God Desires to Do for Us

*Bill Brinkworth*

The Bible is a book of examples. We can see, in many cases, how God can work and bless our lives as He has done in the lives of others. Psalms 40 gives a glimpse of some of the things that God can do for us today, as He had done for King David many years ago:

He can hear our desperate plea for help:

*“I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined [a desire to help] unto me, and heard my cry.” Psalm 40:1*

He can deliver us from a terrible situation and change our lives.

*“He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.” Psalm 40:2*

He can change our attitude and give us joy!

*“And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.” Psalm 40:3*

He can do many, many wonderful things in our lives

*“Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.” Psalm 40:5*

However, to receive God’s hand of blessing, we must first trust in Him to meet all our needs!

*“Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.” Proverbs 40:4*

## Jesus Cares

*Author Unknown*

*When you’ve met some disappointment,  
And you’re tempted to feel blue,  
When your plans have all been side-tracked,  
Or some friend has proved untrue;  
When you’re toiling and you’re struggling  
At the bottom of the stairs,  
It will seem a bit like Heaven,  
Just to know Jesus Cares!*

*Oh, this life is not all sunshine,*

*Some days darkest clouds disclose  
There's a cross for every joy-bell,  
And a thorn for every rose.  
But, the cross is not so grievous,  
Nor the thorn the rose-bud ears,  
And the clouds have silver linings  
When we know that Jesus cares!*

**“The world is taxing, but God is giving.”**