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November 10 & 11, 2018 Valley Week 2 – God Blesses Us

ntroduction:
God saves us - God blesses us - God grows us - God uses us
'To Bless'' = "to bestowor happiness upon"
Ephesians 1:3
Six Major Ways God Blesses Us:
- Goodness that is good enough for God - 100% of Gods wrath fully satisfied through Christ - To purchase back from the slave market of sin - To be set apart as a saint for God's glory - To let go of anything once held against us - Permanent uniting to the eternal Source of life (God)
Psalm 19 – God's Greatest Blessing: REVEALING HIMSELF
Verses 1-6 – God' – "I exist!!!" Verses 7-13 – God's written – "I am the highest authority!" Verse 14 – God's – "I love you!"
ife Application:
The blessing of righteousness: "You're good enough for me!" The blessing of propitiation: "I'm satisfied with you!" The blessing of redemption: "I bought you back!" The blessing of sanctification: "I set you apart!" The blessing of forgiveness: "I don't hold anything against you!" The blessing of new life: "I re-created youyou are brand new!"

We tend to become like the "god" we believe in. When we view God as a cantankerous, easily-offended, judgmental, cosmic kill-joy, we are likely going to treat ourselves and others accordingly. BUT...if God is the God revealed in Jesus, suddenly we are free to treat ourselves and others the same way!

SMALL GROUP Q'S

Personal Life:

1. In the weekend message, the following statement was made: "We tend to become like the 'god' we believe in." In different seasons of life, how has your view of God impacted the way you live on a day –to-day basis? The way you treat others? The way you treat yourself? Discuss...

Ponderings:

- 2. Of the six blessings discussed in the video, which of them do you struggle with believing the most and why?
 - Righteousness: I'm completely good enough for God
 - Propitiation: God is not mad at or disgusted with me
 - Redemption: He paid the highest price to make me His own
 - Sanctification: I'm set apart for His glory and purposes
 - Forgiveness: God doesn't hold anything against me
 - New Life: I'm a brand-new creation at the core
- 3. In Psalm 19, we discovered that God has made Himself known to us through creation (the stuff He's made), written revelation (the Bible) the incarnation (the Son becoming flesh). Why is God revealing Himself to us such an incredible blessing? Where would we be if He had not chosen to communicate with us so abundantly?
- 4. Because we are approaching Thanksgiving, share among your group some of the things you are most grateful for in your life right now. How has God specifically blessed you and how can you act upon the fact that you are "blessed in order to be a blessing" in this season of life?
- 5. Multiple studies reveal that people who choose to be grateful tend to live longer, happier, healthier lives. Why do you think there is such a powerful mental and physical benefit to the art of being thankful? Discuss...

Promptings:

6. Close your time by jotting down 3-5 things you will choose to praise God for every day this week. You could use some things from the weekend message or come up with your own. Also, ask yourself, "How have I been blessed in order to BE a blessing? How can I respond obediently to that reality this week?"