

HAVE YOU DECLARED BANKRUPTCY? (Matthew 5:3)

God tell us in Galatians 5 that true and lasting _____ found only in and through the Holy Spirit of God. As such, it exists only in its fullest sense in (or to) those who have a genuine relationship through faith in Jesus Christ.

What does it mean to be _____? Check out the translation of this verse in the NLT: *"God blesses those who realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is given to them."* (Matthew 5:3 NLT)

I. Have You Declared Bankruptcy?

While it is becoming more commonplace in our society, the word still has a dreadful ring to it. It means "failure, insolvency, an inability to pay one's debts, perhaps financial ruin." In the moral realm, the word "bankrupt" is to say he or she is completely void of any decent moral qualities.

II. What Does It Mean To Be _____ Bankrupt?

"As the Scriptures say, 'No one is good— not even one. No one has real understanding; no one is seeking God. All have turned away from God; all have gone wrong. No one does good, not even one.'" (Romans 3:10-12 NLT)

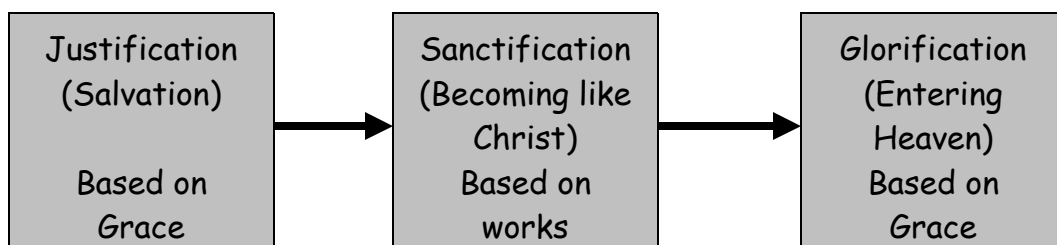
Usually a bankrupt person or business has at least _____ that could be _____ to pay off some of the debts. That is _____ in the spiritual realm. *"But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags. We all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."* (Isaiah 64:6)

We bring nothing to table to affect our salvation but _____... and even then Scripture tells us that our _____ is a gift of God - c.f. Eph. 2:8-9.

III. Understanding _____ Bankruptcy

One of the best-kept secrets in Christendom is this: JESUS PAID IT ALL! The problem is... it isn't supposed to be a secret!

Let's take a look at how the typical Christian views the Christian life:



The problem here is that the entire Christian life must be lived from start to completion on the basis of God's grace to us through Christ. You cannot do one thing to make yourself more holy to God (obedient, yes... holy, no).

"You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ. He forgave all our sins. He canceled the record that contained the charges against us. He took it and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ's cross." (Colossians 2:13-14 NLT)

"Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us." (Romans 5:1 NLT)

IV. Each Of Us Must Declare _____ Bankruptcy!

As Christians, most of us would verbally and mentally agree that we have declared _____. Actually most of us have only declared _____.

One of the most amazing things about _____ is that God not only gives us the very faith we need to believe, but also the very strength and wisdom we need to _____. In (John 14:15), Jesus said, "If you love Me, obey My commandments."

Each of us must learn to _____ God's grace. *"But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.'" (James 4:6)*

Concluding Thoughts...

"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."
(John 17:3)

The entire Christian life is lived under the reign of God's grace. Remember, the Christian life is not hard, it isn't even difficult... It is in fact impossible apart from Jesus Christ and the enablement of the Holy Spirit!

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)