

TOPIC: FREEDOM FROM CURSES

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SUMMARY OF MESSAGE

Introduction

Passage reading: Deut 28:15-68, Deut 30:19

Gal 3:13-14

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

Curse – what is that?

1. It's a very common oriental practice
2. "Sumpah" – an oath
3. Opposite of 'bless'.

When a curse is pronounced, it is not just a mere wish. A curse is considered to possess an inherent power of carrying itself into effect. Even primitive man believed that curses or blessings were imprecations referred to supernatural beings in whose existence, was power to do good or evil.

When we pray and bless someone, we expect good things to happen. We expect God to bring an answer through his ministering angels. What about curses? What would bring them to pass?

3 points to consider with regards to the reality of curses:

1. Initially verbal, i.e. they have to be said, pronounced, released first for it to take effect.
2. Negative intentions are named, i.e. harm would come upon person that the curse is directed at.
3. Depend on supernatural powers to make them happen.

With the same expectancy that we expect God to work through his angels, the devil works through his horde of demons to make things happen when we curse.

Prov 26:2

Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest.

From the above verse, there must be a cause for a curse to take place.

Two agents that are channels of curses:

- 1) The devil and his demons
- 2) Our carnal nature which cooperates with the cause, i.e. we wish evil on another.

God does not make curses happen. Although God may pronounce it, He is not the one who make these happen; there must be a cause in us. In Romans 1:18-32, God let go when people choose to sin. He gave them over to shameful lusts (v26). In Deut 28, the people were told to choose between life or death, blessings or curses. When we choose death, God will take His hands off. The devil will take over, deceive and inflict the curses on those who open themselves vulnerable to his attacks.

Gen 3:14-15

The serpent shall eat dust. There shall be enmity between the seed of the woman and the devil. God cursed the serpent.

Gen 3:17

God cursed the ground. Given that we are made out of the earth, when something happens to the earth, it affects us.

When the devil usurps authority, we suffer consequences.

What about curses pronounced by God?

1. Curse was upon the serpent.
2. Curse was not directly leveled at man but at the ground.
3. God immediately provided a way out. Messianic provision was made. Jesus would crush the head of the devil.

Heb 2:14-15

When Jesus died, He broke the bond of death and the one with the power of death – the devil. Hence, we are free from any control the devil has over our lives.

What is the “curse of the law?” (Gal 3:13, 14)

1. Specifically listed in Deut 28:5-68
2. Generally includes humiliation, barrenness, unfruitfulness, family breakdown, mental/physical sickness, poverty, defeat, oppression, God’s disfavor.

How is the curse broken?

1. Christ redeemed us from it. Example is given of the things which after we pawn them, we redeem them with making a payment. Jesus purchased for us freedom

from the curse. The price He paid was His own blood when He became a curse for us. In place of the curse, He has brought us into the blessings of Abraham.

2. The blessing of Abraham (Gen 12:2-3)

In Genesis 12, God said that He would make Abraham into a great nation. The Hebrew word for nation is 'ethnos', meaning people groups, community. By way of application, we would be a great people, a great church. The blessings are also on the individual, for each of us to claim:

V2. "I will bless you" – individual

"make your name great" – honor, reputation and character

"shall be a blessing" – prosperous, success in every way

v3. "Bless those who bless you" – people around us would be blessed.

"I will curse him who curse you". Don't worry about those who curse us. God will take care of the curse. Don't walk in the flesh and curse back.

"In you all the families of the earth will be blessed." – Others around us will be blessed.

Status Report - How are we doing?

1. Are we in reality, free from the curse?

2. Has the blessing really come upon us? If not, why?

Story was told of a man who boarded an ocean liner to the Atlantic. Each day when he walked along the corridor he would look into the dining room and see people having a good spread of dishes to eat from. He would sigh and go back to his own room, eating his own bread. At the time of disembarkation, he was asked by the staff who noticed that he didn't eat at all in the dining area. He reply was that he didn't pay for it. He was then told that the ticket actually included the meals!

When Christ died in our place, we inherited a ticket to heaven. Our meal includes being freed from barrenness, poverty, sickness and in place, being made great. We are made to succeed and become blessed families on the earth. Do we really believe that these blessings are ours?

The blessing of Abraham is in the ticket. However, some believers live as if they are still under the curse. How can we be free from the curse? How do we receive and appropriate the freedom and blessings that come with it? Let's run through the word, 'B-L-E-S-S'.

B - Believe what the Word of God says. Know what it says regarding victory.

Believe in the heart, not just with the head.

L - Let go (renounce) of all occultic and satanic contacts, e.g. have we been offered to idols?

To renounce means that we now reject the old ways.

We repent by turning the opposite direction towards Christ.

E - Exonerate, forgive others who have harmed you. As in Prov 26:2, unforgiveness ties us

to the curse.

S - Say the prayer for release from any curse.

We say, 'Father, Your Word says Christ has set me free from the curse of the law and therefore I am free from it. I renounce and break the curses in Jesus' name. I forgive those who hurt me. I am free from all curses and I am placed to receive the blessings of Abraham.'

S - State continuously that this is the condition we are in. State regularly your faith in Christ,

His sacrifice and your freedom in Him.

We need to renew our mind and retread it with the Word of God. Like a sponge soaked in water, when someone steps on us, what comes out from us should not be negative words but declarations of our freedom in Christ, words that reject the curse. Whatever the curse, God will deal with it and with the person. We need to know our rightful inheritance in Christ which follows the blessings of Abraham.

Prayer of Declaration

I am in Christ. I am redeemed from the curse of the law. No curse has any effect on me because of what Jesus has done. Through His death, he has paid the penalty of sin and hence I am free. I am redeemed and I stand in the blessing of Abraham. I receive the blessing by faith and by the power of the Holy Spirit and by His teaching and leading and will walk in the blessing. I receive the fruitfulness, prosperity, success and favor and love of God upon me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Read the list of curses as listed in Deut 28:15-68. Do you know of any curse that might have come down through your forefathers' generations?

2. Do you see yourself as someone careful or careless with words? What are some areas which you think you could further improve on? (optional question)

3. Share your understanding of Galatians 3:13,14 regarding what Christ has done and what applications can we make out of it and to remain in freedom?

4. Do we just claim and receive the blessings or are there things we need to do to come into the place of blessings?

- 5) You might want to check if there are any doorways that might have been opened through the following. (optional)
 - a) Involvement in occult. Deut 7:26
 - b) Illicit sex or unnatural sex
 - c) Self-inflicted curses, eg. Speaking words that belittle self. Prov 18:21, Job 3:25
 - d) Speaking curses against others
 - e) Unscriptural covenants, eg, fengshui, divination.
 - f) Unfaithfulness toward God's finances. Mal 3:8-11
 - g) Trusting in self. Jeremiah 17:5-8

(See appendix for sample prayer)

No condemnation, no comparison, no competition but only encouragement...

For personal use:

SAMPLE OF CURSE BREAKING PRAYER (ADAPTED)

Pray the following aloud and believe it as you pray it:

Lord Jesus,

I confess to you that I have been in bondage in the following areas *(Name the specific areas)*, and I ask you to reveal to me the cause or causes that brought this into my life. *(Here, confess to the Lord whatever He brings to your mind.)* I thank you for the release that you gained for me when you became a curse on the cross.

I ask you to forgive me or my ancestors for any sin that has exposed me to a curse *(Name any specific sin that you are aware of.)* I receive your forgiveness and I choose to forgive those who've sinned against me *(Name these people.)*

I break any ungodly ties that still bind me to anyone in my life who's ever hurt or disappointed me or to whom I have related in an ungodly way. *(Name these people as you break the unhealthy bondings and 'soul ties'.)*

I renounce any and all contact with the occult and promise to destroy any occult objects that I may possess. *(Name the specific occult involvement's.)*

I renounce any and all sexual sins, and I break the power of pornography that may have a hold of me.

I renounce any and all self-inflicted curses that I've pronounced on myself, and I break those patterns from my heart and tongue.

I renounce any and all curses that I've spoken against others, whether knowingly or unknowingly: gossip, bitter words, anger, and judgment. I break the authority of any such occult power in my life.

I renounce any and all unholy covenants in which I or my ancestors have been involved *(Name them)*

I renounce any and all patterns of stinginess with finances that I or my ancestors have engaged. I resolve to be obedient to the Lord in the area of tithes and offerings. I renounce all attitudes of reliance upon man and the flesh. I resolve to put my trust solely in the Lord, my God.

I do once and for all release myself from the power and authorities of any curse. All demonic spirits and powers involved *(Name them if they've been discerned)*, I bind you and command you to cease your activity in my life and to leave my life, my body, my soul, my mind, my family, my house, my job, etc.

I pray all these things in the authority of the name of Jesus and give you thanks and praise, Lord, that all these things are done. Amen.

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