



*A Scriptural Look at
Borrowing*

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Forward

My family and I live on a farm that produces many dandelions.

When looking at the little yellow flowers, you see a sense of beauty. I have heard that you could make tea with their roots, and perhaps they would hold the soil together and keep it from washing away.

These small advantages cannot stop the fact that they are a form of weed, and they are hard to control.

This, in some way is like the debt that hangs heavy, heavy over your head and at times seems to control your sense of happiness.

Many individuals feel that borrowing is wrong, but need to have extra things that take extra money.

Borrowing is seen as a negative in the Bible, yet the Bible does not prohibit Christians from borrowing. Neither does it encourage borrowing.

In order for ministers and teachers to teach the biblical financial principles concerning borrowing, they must first know what God's Word says about borrowing.

Have you faith? Have *it* to thyself before God. Happy *is* he that condemns not himself in that thing which he allows. Rom. 14:22

Chapter 1

The Biblical way to Borrow

Psalms 37:21

²¹ The wicked borrowed, and payed not again: but the righteous show mercy, and give.

God furnishes the giver with high blessings so that he is able to help others.

You can tell a lot about a person's character by the way he or she handles money. The wicked person steals under the guise of borrowing. The righteous person gives generously to the needy. The wicked person, therefore, focuses on himself, while the righteous person looks to the welfare of others.

According to this Scripture, those who do not pay the money back that they borrowed are considered wicked.

If we owe a debt, we must find a way to repay it.

Matthew 5:23-24

²³ Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there remember that thy brother hats ought against thee; ²⁴ Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

Broken relationships can hinder our relationship with God. If we have a problem or grievance with a friend, we should resolve the problem as

soon as possible. We are hypocrites if we claim to love God while we hate others. Our attitudes toward others reflect our relationship with God

1 John 4:20

If a man says, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

It is easy to say we love God when that love doesn't cost us anything more than weekly attendance at religious services. But the real test of our love for God is how we treat the people right in front of us—our family members and fellow believers. We cannot truly love God while neglecting to love those who are created in his image.

The biblical way to borrow is to have collateral or surety for the debt.

Financial principles in God's word are often misunderstood, or ignored.

When collateral has been placed as security against the loan that is equal in value to the loan that we can avoid security. If we cannot pay the loan back then the creditor can respond and sell the collateral. This will satisfy the amount owed.

Proverbs 22:26-27

26 Be not thou one of them that strike hands, or of them that are sureties for debts.

27 If thou hast nothing to pay, why should he take away thy bed from under thee?

This verse is saying that it is wise to be slow to countersign a note or to be liable for another person's debt.

Although borrowing is not directly prohibited in the word of God, It finds no place of encouragement.

Pastors and teachers must teach God's people the Bible principles. There appears to be too much indebtedness in the Christian society today. God is seeking for a people who can bring forth his word with godly responsibility.

Chapter 2

Working is a Means to Financial Blessings

As you work, God will prosper you.

Genesis 2:15

And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

God gave Adam responsibility for the garden and told him not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

From the creation of man, he was given the responsibility to work and tend the garden.

1 Tim. 5:8

But if any provide not for his own and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

Almost everyone has relatives, family of some kind. Family relationships are so important in God's eyes, Paul says, that a person who neglects his or her family responsibilities has denied the faith. Are you doing your part to meet the needs of those included in your family circle?

The Holy Spirit will guide us in our work.

Luke 5:1- 9

And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,

[2] And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.

And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. [4] Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. [5] And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. [6] And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

Simon (Peter) was awestruck at this miracle, and his first response was to feel his own insignificance in comparison to this man's greatness. Peter knew that Jesus had healed the sick and driven out demons, but he was amazed that Jesus cared about his day-to-day routine and understood his needs. God is interested not only in saving us, but also in helping us in our daily activities.

Proverbs 6:6-8

Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: [7] Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, [8] Provides her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.

The ant is used as an example because it utilizes its energy and resources economically. If laziness turns us from our responsibilities, poverty may soon bar us from the legitimate rest we should enjoy.

Proverbs 12:11

He that tills his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding.

Proverbs 16:3

Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.

There are different ways to fail to commit whatever we do to the Lord. Some people commit their work only superficially. They say the project is being done for the Lord, but in reality they are doing it for themselves. Others give God temporary control of their interests, only to take control back the moment things stop going the way they expect. Still others commit a task fully to the Lord, but put forth no effort themselves, and then they wonder why they do not succeed. We must maintain a delicate balance: trusting God as if everything depended on him, while working as if everything depended on us

Faith must be accompanied by works

James 2:17

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

We cannot earn our salvation by serving and obeying God. But such actions show that our commitment to God is real. Deeds of loving service are not a substitute for, but rather a verification of, our faith in Christ.

Psalm 128:2 For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.

Jeremiah 29:5 Build ye houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them;

When you enter times of trouble or sudden change, pray diligently and move ahead, doing whatever you can rather than giving up because of fear and uncertainty.

Chapter 3

Blessing come to those who give to the work of the Lord

Matthew 6:2

Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

The term *hypocrites*, as used here, describes people who do good acts for appearances only—not out of compassion or other good motives. Their actions may be good, but their motives are hollow. These empty acts are their only reward, but God will reward those who are sincere in their faith.

Even simple deeds will be rewarded.

Matthew 10:42

And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

How much we love God can be measured by how well we treat others. Jesus' example of giving a cup of cold water to a thirsty child is a good model of unselfish service. A child usually can't or won't return a favor. God notices every good deed we do or don't do as if he were the one receiving it. Is there something unselfish you can do for someone else today? Although no one else may see you, God will notice.

Col. 3:23-24

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; [24] Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

Since the creation, God has given us work to do. If we could regard our work as an act of worship or service to God, such an attitude would take some of the drudgery and boredom out of it. We could work without

complaining or resentment if we would treat our job problems as the cost of discipleship. God rewards those who are faithful.

Believers must not grow weary in their work for God

Galatians 6:9

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

It is discouraging to continue to do right and receive no word of thanks or see no tangible results. But Paul challenged the Galatians and he challenges us to keep on doing well and to trust God for the results. In due time, we will reap a harvest of blessing.

James 1:12

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

The crown of life is like the victory wreath given to winning athletes (see 1 Cor. 9:25). God's crown of life is not glory and honor here on earth, but the reward of eternal life—living with God forever. The way to be in God's winners' circle is by loving him and staying faithful even under pressure.

Chapter 4

Pray for the peace of Israel and prosper.

I had an uncle who prayed for God to bless Israel every day. He and his family were very poor farmers and lived even before the time of automobiles.

When he was a young man, he asked God to help him prosper. The spirit of the Lord spoke to him and told him that if he would pray for Israel every day that he would prosper.

Soon a man from an oil company came to him and asked him to represent the company by talking to the landowners about leasing their land to the oil company for drilling.

He was very successful, and was promoted. He also bought gas and oil leases himself. He was never poor again. In his life span of 95 years, he continued to pray for Israel, and always had sufficiently to sustain and bless him.

He told me that there was no reason to be poor. He said that if I would pray for Israel each day, God would prosper me.

Psalm 122:6

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.

The psalmist was not praying for his own peace and prosperity, but for that of his brothers and friends in Jerusalem.

Intercessory prayer is prayer on behalf of others.

Too often we are quick to pray for our own needs and desires, and omit interceding for others. Will you intercede for someone in need today?

The peace sought in these verses is much more than the mere absence of conflict. It suggests completeness, health, justice, prosperity, and protection. The world cannot provide this peace. Real peace comes from faith in God because he alone embodies all the characteristics of peace.

To find peace of mind and peace with others, you must find peace with God.

There are many reasons to pray for Israel. The Bible teaches us that Israel will be blessed, and that helping Israel brings blessing on oneself and one's own nation.

Israel is back in its land. This is a sign that its prosperity will be restored and it will once again be financially wealthy: a lender to many nations.

You can make an impact on your own financial life and take advantage of biblical principles regarding what God promises for those who bless Israel.

Jeremiah 29:7

And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the Lord for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.

Jeremiah wrote to the captives in Babylon (Jeremiah 29:4-23 is the letter) instructing them to move ahead with their lives and to pray for the pagan nation that enslaved them.

Life cannot grind to a halt during troubled times. In an unpleasant or distressing situation, we must adjust and keep moving. You may find it difficult to pray for those in authority if they are evil, but that is when your prayers are most needed (1 Tim. 2:1-2). When you enter times of trouble or sudden change, pray diligently and move ahead, doing whatever you can rather than giving up because of fear and uncertainty.

God chooses a way to bless Israel:

Numbers 6:22-27

And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, [23] Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying, On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel, saying unto them, [24] The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: [25] The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: [26] The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. [27] And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them.

Perhaps, you may use these verses to pray and bless Israel every day.

A blessing was one way of asking for God's divine favor to rest upon others. The ancient blessing in these verses helps us understand what a blessing was supposed to do. Its five parts conveyed hope that God would (1) bless and keep them (favor and protect); (2) make his face shine upon them (be pleased); (3) be gracious (merciful and compassionate); (4) turn his face toward them (give his approval); (5) give peace. When you ask God to bless others or yourself, you are asking him to do these five things. The blessing you offer will not only help the one receiving it, it will also demonstrate love, encourage others, and provide a model of caring to others.

God blesses those who love and bless Israel

Numbers 24:5 How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles, O Israel!

Numbers 24:9

He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion: who shall stir him up? Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee.

Those who curse and seek to destroy Israel will be cursed and destroyed.

Numbers 24:7-9

He shall pour the water out of his buckets, and his seed shall be in many waters, and his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted. [8] God brought him forth out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn: he shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce them through with his arrows. [9] He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion: who shall stir him up? Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee.

Balaam had been hired to curse Israel, but God allowed him to speak a blessing upon them. Although Balaam's motives were not correct, in blessing Israel he acted with integrity. God's message had so filled him that Balaam spoke the truth. In so doing, he forfeited the reward that had lured him to speak in the first place.

Staying true to God's Word may cost us promotions and advantages in the short run, but those who choose God over money will one day acquire heavenly wealth beyond measure (Matthew 6:19-21).

Be faithful in your prayers for Israel to prosper, and as they prosper, you also will prosper.

Even though God has made promises of prosperity to Israel. These blessing, still must be prayed by believers. Be faithful to pray.

Chapter 5

Borrowing challenges found in the law and in Ezekiel

Exodus 22:25-27

If thou lend money to any of my people that is poor by thee, thou shalt not be to him as an usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury. [26] If thou at all take thy neighbour's raiment to pledge, thou shalt deliver it unto him by that the sun goeth down: [27] For that is his covering only, it is his raiment for his skin: wherein shall he sleep? and it shall come to pass, when he crieth unto me, that I will hear; for I am gracious.

The Hebrew law code is noted for its fairness and social responsibility toward the poor. God insisted that the poor and powerless be well treated and given the chance to restore their fortunes. We should reflect God's concern for the poor by helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

Why did the law insist on returning a person's cloak by evening? The cloak was one of an Israelite's most valuable possessions. Making clothing was difficult and time-consuming. As a result, cloaks were expensive, and most people owned only one. The cloak was used as a

blanket, a sack to carry things in, a place to sit, a pledge for a debt, and, of course, clothing.

There was a year of release from debts.

Deut. 15:1-2

At the end of every seven years thou shalt make a release. [2] And this is the manner of the release: Every creditor that lendeth ought unto his neighbour shall release it; he shall not exact it of his neighbour, or of his brother; because it is called the Lord's release.

The Bible supports an organized system of caring for the poor. God told his people to use their tithe every third year for those who were helpless, hungry, or poor. These regulations were designed to prevent the country from sinking under crushing poverty and oppression. It was everyone's responsibility to care for those less fortunate. Families were to help other family members, and towns were to help members of their community. National laws protected the rights of the poor, but helping the poor was also an active part of religious life. God counts on believers to provide for the needy, and we should use what God has given us to aid those less fortunate. Look beyond your regular giving and think of ways to help the needy. This will help you show your regard for God as Creator of all people, share God's goodness with others, and draw them to him. It is a practical and essential way to make faith work in everyday life.

Deut. 15:7

If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother:

God told the Israelites to help the poor among them when they arrived in the promised land. This was an important part of possessing the land. Many people conclude that people are poor through some fault of their own. This kind of reasoning makes it easy to close their hearts and hands

to the needy. But we are not to invent reasons for ignoring the poor. We are to respond to their needs no matter who or what was responsible for their condition. Who are the poor in your community? How could your church help them? If your church does not have a program to identify the poor and assist in fulfilling their needs, why not help start one? What can you do to help someone in need?

Exodus 18:8

And Moses told his father in law all that the Lord had done unto Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, and all the travail that had come upon them by the way, and how the Lord delivered them.

Moses told his father-in-law all that God had done, convincing him that the Lord was greater than any other god. Our relatives are often the hardest people to tell about God. Yet we should look for opportunities to tell them what God is doing in our lives because we can have an important influence on them.

Do not charge usury to the poor.

Exodus 22:25-27

If thou lend money to any of my people that is poor by thee, thou shalt not be to him as an usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury. [26] If thou at all take thy neighbour's raiment to pledge, thou shalt deliver it unto him by that the sun goeth down: [27] For that is his covering only, it is his raiment for his skin: wherein shall he sleep? and it shall come to pass, when he crieth unto me, that I will hear; for I am gracious.

God is a God of perfect justice.

The Hebrew law code is noted for its fairness and social responsibility toward the poor. God insisted that the poor and powerless be well treated and given the chance to restore their fortunes. We should reflect God's concern for the poor by helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

Why did the law insist on returning a person's cloak by evening? The cloak was one of an Israelite's most valuable possessions. Making clothing was difficult and time-consuming.

As a result, cloaks were expensive, and most people owned only one. The cloak was used as a blanket, a sack to carry things in, a place to sit, a pledge for a debt, and, of course, clothing.

Ezekiel 18:7

And hath not oppressed any, but hath restored to the debtor his pledge, hath spoiled none by violence, hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment;

The Law of Moses had rules about charging interest (Exodus 22:25; Leviticus 25:36; Deut. 23:19-20) to prevent God's people from taking advantage of the poor or of fellow Israelites.

God is a God of love, but he is also a God of perfect justice. His perfect love causes him to be merciful to those who recognize their sin and turn back to him, but he cannot wink at those who willfully sin. Wicked people die both physically and spiritually. God takes no joy in their deaths; he would prefer that they turn to him and have eternal life. Likewise, we should not rejoice in the misfortunes of nonbelievers. Instead, we should do all in our power to bring them to faith.

Chapter 6

Borrowing challenges from Psalms and Proverbs

Psalm 37:21

The wicked borrows, and pays not again: but the righteous shows mercy, and giveth.

The wicked person steals under the guise of borrowing. The righteous person gives generously to the needy. The wicked person, therefore, focuses on himself, while the righteous person looks to the welfare of others.

The person in whom God delights is one who follows God, trusts him, and tries to do his will. God watches over and makes firm every step that person takes. If you would like to have God direct your way, then seek his advice before you step out.

Proverbs 3:27-28

Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it. [28] Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.

Delaying to do good, is inconsiderate and unfair, whether it is repaying a loan, returning a tool, or fulfilling a promise. Withholding destroys trust and creates a great inconvenience. Be as eager to do good as you are to have good done to you.

Proverbs 22:7

The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

Does this mean we should never borrow? No, but it warns us never to take on a loan without carefully examining our ability to repay it. A loan we can handle is enabling; a loan we can't handle is enslaving. The borrower must realize that until the loan is repaid, he or she is a servant to the individual or institution that made it.

Proverbs 22:26-27

Be not thou one of them that strike hands, or of them that are sureties for debts. [27] If thou hast nothing to pay, why should he take away thy bed from under thee?

This verse is saying that it is wise to be slow to countersign a note or to be liable for another person's debt.

One who is a sluggard should consider the example of an ant.

Proverbs 6:6-11

Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: [7] Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, [8] Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. [9] How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? [10] Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: [11] So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

Those last few moments of sleep are delicious—we savor them as we resist beginning another workday. But Proverbs warns against giving in to the temptation of laziness, of sleeping instead of working. This does not mean we should never rest: God gave the Jews the Sabbath, a weekly day of rest and restoration. But we should not rest when we should be working.

The ant is used as an example because it utilizes its energy and resources economically. If laziness turns us from our responsibilities, poverty may soon bar us from the legitimate rest we should enjoy.

Proverbs 21:17

He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.

We should work to meet the needs of the poor and protect their rights—we may be in need of such services ourselves someday.

This proverb is about saving for the future. Easy credit has many people living on the edge of bankruptcy. The desire to keep up and to accumulate more pushes them to spend every penny they earn, and they stretch their credit to the limit. But anyone who spends all he has is spending more than he can afford. A wise person puts money aside for when he or she may have less. God approves of foresight and restraint. God's people need to examine their life-styles to see whether their spending is God-pleasing or merely self-pleasing.

When your enemy is hungry is hungry, feed him.

Proverbs 25:21-22

If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: [22] For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the Lord shall reward thee.

Chapter 7

Borrowing challenges from The New Testament

Luke 6:35

But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

Love means action. One-way to put love to work is to take the initiative in meeting specific needs. This is easy to do with people who love us, people whom we trust; but love means doing this even to those who dislike us or plan to hurt us. The money we give others should be considered a gift, not a high-interest loan that will help us more than them. Give as though you are giving to God.

Matthew 5:26

Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

In Jesus' day, someone who couldn't pay a debt was thrown into prison until the debt was paid. Unless someone came to pay the debt for the prisoner, he or she would probably die there. It is practical advice to resolve our differences with our enemies before their anger causes more trouble (Proverbs 25:8-10). You may not get into a disagreement that takes you to court, but even small conflicts mend more easily if you try to make peace right away. In a broader sense, these verses advise us to get things right with our brothers and sisters before we have to stand before God.

John 10:10

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly

In contrast to the thief who takes life, Jesus gives life. The life he gives right now is abundantly richer and fuller. It is eternal, yet it begins immediately. Life in Christ is lived on a higher plane because of his overflowing forgiveness, love, and guidance. Have you taken Christ's offer of life?

Hebrews 13:5

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Real love for others produces tangible actions: (1) kindness to strangers (Hebrews 13:2); (2) empathy for those who are in prison and those who have been mistreated (Hebrews 13:3); (3) respect for your marriage vows (Hebrews 13:4); and (4) contentment with what you have (Hebrews 13:5). Make sure that your love runs deep enough to affect your hospitality, empathy, fidelity, and contentment.

Three Old Testament people "entertained angels without knowing it": (1) Abraham (Genesis 18:1ff), (2) Gideon (Judges 6:11ff), and (3) Manoah (Judges 13:2ff).

Some people say they cannot be hospitable because their homes are not large enough or nice enough. But even if you have no more than a table and two chairs in a rented room, there are people who would be grateful to spend time in your home. Are there visitors to your church with whom you could share a meal? Is there any way your home could meet the needs of traveling missionaries? Hospitality simply means making other people feel comfortable and at home.

We are to have empathy for those in prison, especially for (but not limited to) Christians imprisoned for their faith. Jesus said that his true followers would represent him as they visit those in prison (Matthew 25:36).

The Real Challenge

How can we learn to be content? Strive to live with less rather than desiring more; give away out of your abundance rather than accumulating more; relish what you have rather than resent what you're missing. See God's love expressed in what he has provided, and remember that money and possessions will all pass away. (See Phil. 4:11 for more on contentment, and 1 John 2:17 for the futility of earthly desires.)

We become content when we realize God's sufficiency for our needs.

Christians who become materialistic are saying by their actions that God can't take care of them—or at least that he won't take care of them the way they want. Insecurity can lead to the love of money, whether we are rich or poor. The only antidote is to trust God to meet all our needs.

Rev. 22:12

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

The angel tells John what to do after his vision is over.

Instead of sealing up what he has written, as Daniel was commanded to do (Daniel 12:4-12), the book is to be left open so that all can read and understand. Daniel's message was sealed because it was not a message for Daniel's time. But the book of Revelation was a message for John's

time, and it is relevant today. As Christ's return gets closer, there is a greater polarization between God's followers and Satan's followers. We must read the book of Revelation, hear its message, and be prepared for Christ's imminent return.

Those who wash their robes are those who seek to purify themselves from a sinful way of life. They strive daily to remain faithful and ready for Christ's return. This concept is also explained in the second note on +Rev. 7:14.

In Eden, Adam and Eve were barred from any access to the tree of life because of their sin (Genesis 3:22-24). In the new earth, God's people will eat from the tree of life because their sins have been removed by Christ's death and resurrection.

Those who eat the fruit of this tree will live forever. If Jesus has forgiven your sins, you will have the right to eat from this tree.

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