

Blessings Of God

By Mark Hatfield

One of the most comforting thoughts that will ever cross the mind of man, is that the God of heaven who created Him would care to bless and watch over him. David wrote in Psalm 8:4, "what is man that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man that thou visitest him?" (See also Job 7:17; Hebrews 2:6). We must recognize that God is full of blessings for us if only we will accept them on His terms. Do you have the blessings of God? How can one have all that God has to offer? Let us study God's word and see all of the blessings of God.

GOD'S BLESSINGS ARE MANY

The Bible is very quick to point out that God offers an innumerable amount of blessings to man. In Eph 3:20-21, the Bible says, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." The mind of man cannot even comprehend the blessings that God has to offer. In Psalms 115:11-15, the word records, "Ye that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD: he is their help and their shield. The LORD hath been mindful of us: he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron. He will bless them that fear the LORD, both small and great. The LORD shall increase you more and more, you and your children. Ye are blessed of the LORD which made heaven and earth." To think that God is constantly blessing His people, shows the magnitude of his care for us all. Every time you receive a gift, think of what James said, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." We are indeed blessed.

GOD'S BLESSINGS ARE SPECIAL

Not only are God's blessings plentiful, but when we are blessed of God it is special. Peter wrote by inspiration, "Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that you are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing." If we were called to inherit the blessings of God it should make us feel very special, and cause us to live lives that are a blessing to others. When God gives a blessing, it is not comparable to anything that the world offers. In John 10:10, Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." God, in sending His Son to die on the cross was providing the greatest blessing man would ever experience. Also, God's love and mercy can be seen in this blessing of giving His own Son. By the death of Christ we can be God's own peculiar people (special *m.l.h.*), and have eternal life (Titus 2:14). Let us all appreciate the special place we hold in God's eyes.

GOD'S BLESSINGS ARE CONDITIONAL

When we think of all of the blessings that God offers, we must ask the all important question, "what must I do to have these blessings?" The answer has been the same from the beginning of man's dealings with God. Back in Deuteronomy 11:26-28, it is written, "Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye

obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known." God wants His people to be an obedient people in order to obtain His blessings. The psalmist said it well when he asked, "Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?; He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation." It is imperative that we see the need to live righteous lives in order to obtain these blessings from God's hand. This obedience is not a one time deal. The wise man wrote, "A faithful man shall abound with blessing..." Let us be faithful unto death to receive the crown of life (Rev. 2:10)

Paul wrote with authority, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in Christ..." (Eph 1:3). Notice first of all that all spiritual blessings are in Christ. If that is true, how does one get into Christ and have these blessings? Paul explained, "For you are all children of God by faith in Christ Jesus, For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Gal 3:26-27). It is at the point that we obey the gospel through belief and baptism that we are in Christ (Mk. 16:16). It is at that time that we have access to all of God's blessings. Do you?