

The Blessings of God

Psalm 68:19-20

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Introduction: Someone has said, "The hardest arithmetic to master is that which enables us to count our blessings." We are exhorted to count our many blessings in the song, but how often do we do just that? The song says to count them one by one. Someone has added, "Count them two by two, see what God can do." The Chinese have a proverb which says, "When you drink from the stream, remember the spring." Our text is written by a truly thankful person. Can we share his sentiments, as he speaks of the Giver of benefits, the Giving of the benefits, & the Gifted of the benefits? Could this be your testimony tonight, "*Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation*"?

I. The **Giver** of the gifts: the **Benefactor**

"Blessed be the LORD"

A. The exhortation for giving thanks for Who God is >

1. Psalm 100:1-5, "*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.*"
2. Psalm 150:1-6, "*Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord...*"

B. The examples of giving thanks for Who God is >

1. Psalm 9:1-2. "*I will praise Thee O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all Thy marvelous works. I will be glad & rejoice in Thee: I will sing praise to Thy name, O Thou Most High.*"
2. The Doxology: "*Praise God from whom all blessings flow...*"

II. The **Giving** of the gifts: the **benefits**

"Who daily loadeth us with benefits"

A. He gives to us continuously ("*daily*") >

1. Lamentations 3:22-23 - New mercies every morning.
 - a. God's mercifulness (:22).
 - b. God's faithfulness (:23).
2. Matthew 6:11 & vss. 31-33 - New manna every day.
 - a. In answer to our prayers (:11).
 - b. In acknowledgment of our priorities (:33).

B. He gives to us generously ("*loadeth*") >

1. The explanation:
 - a. Refers to the carrying of a heavy burden (illustration – double packs).
 - b. Revealed in the bestowing of many blessings (cf, Psalm 103:3-5).
2. The examples:
 - a. The blessing of His peace > Psalm 29:11, "*The LORD will give strength unto His people; the LORD will bless His people with peace.*"
 - b. The blessing of His provision > Psalm 32:1-2 (forgiveness); Psalm 34:7 (protection); Psalm 84:10-12 (good things); etc.

III. The “**Gifted**” of the gifts: the “**benefitees**” (beneficiaries)

"The God of our salvation"

A. *"Our salvation" >*

1. Psalm 27:1, *"The Lord is my light & my salvation..."*
2. Isaiah 12:2 (& Exodus 15:2), *My salvation, strength, & song.*

B. *"Our God" (cf. verse 20) >*

1. Psalm 46:10 (cf. Psalm 100:3) - *Know God.*
2. Psalm 144:15, *"Happy is that people, that is in such a case; yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD."*

Conclusion: Are we truly a thankful people tonight? Could it be that we who have enjoyed such abundance of God's gifts, that we have forgotten the Giver? Consider the woman who found a new car in her driveway with a note saying, "This is a gift for you because I love you." It was signed, "An Angel of the Lord." She responded by hanging a poster on her garage door that simply said, "THANK YOU GOD." She recognized that all things come to us from the hand of God (James 1:17).

May we heed the exhortation of the Psalmist who says, *"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, & into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, & bless His name."* Remember the Giver of the gifts, the giving of the gifts, & the “gifted” of the gifts. May we render heart-felt thankfulness to God, not only in this season, but every day of our lives.