

11-19-2025 – Blessed - - - Mid-week Encouragement for the soul!

Psalm 1:1 – “Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night.”

- The “law of the Lord” isn’t just a set of rules; it reveals God’s **character**.
- The **law** is a **guide** for living in a relationship with God.
 - o David says those who **walk** with God – who have a **daily relationship** with God – are **blessed**.

What does it mean to be blessed? Material goods? Possessions? Success?

It’s **easy to equate blessed with prosperity**. It’s an idea rooted in O.T.

Deut. 28 – “If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. ² All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God:

³ You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country.

⁴ The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. ⁵ Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. ⁶ You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out. ⁷ The Lord will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven.

⁸ The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

⁹ The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the Lord your God and walk in obedience to him. ¹⁰ Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they will fear you. ¹¹ The Lord will grant you abundant prosperity—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground—in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you.

¹² The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. ¹³ The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. ¹⁴ Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them.

The N.T. gives us a **different** reality of **blessed**.

Peter – who learned about being blessed straight from Jesus – said: “**But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.**” – **1 Peter 3:14**

- You may be blessed, but still have problems . . . still suffer.
- And He isn’t just saying you will be blessed *later* . . . after life.

A common idea is that if **things are good, we’re blessed**; but if we have **problems, we’re cursed**, not blessed. It’s not Biblical. Not spiritual either.

- We encounter difficulties & wonder what we’ve done wrong.
- We’re unemployed . . . loved one is ill . . . didn’t get that promotion.
 - **REALITY** – if blessing is only material prosperity & success & personal well-being, then what Jesus taught is nonsense.

Jesus said, “**In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.**” – **John 16:33**

- It’s why Paul wrote, “**2 Timothy 3:12** – “**Indeed, all who desire to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.**”
- It’s why James said, **James 1:12** – “**Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.**”
 - **Being BLESSED doesn’t mean you’ll live a problem-free life.**
 - **Blessed: a spiritual state of well being that rises above life’s problems.**

Hear Jesus’ words -- Matthew 5:3-11 – Sermon on the Mount –

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you & falsely say all kinds of evil against you b/c of me. ¹² Rejoice & be glad, b/c great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The Bible's definition of "blessed" is not the same as the world's.

- We usually celebrate the **rich**, not the **poor** - but they know their need for God . . . and **God provides our daily bread... source of good gifts**.
- We celebrate **self-assertive** people, not one who is **meek** – but the meek are **humble** (not weak) . . . and **God lifts up the humble**, resists the proud.
- We think if **joyful** they're blessed, not those who **mourn** . . . but **God comforts all who mourn**, ... He gives "a crown of beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning & a garment of praise for a spirit of despair."

The daily presence of God is the key to a blessed life.

Those who **walk daily** w/ God . . . will **walk & not faint**, run & not be weary.

Those who **wait on God** . . . live with hope, not despair.

All things work together for good . . . and God is working it out!

Those who **depend on God** . . . will not worry or live in despair.

God feeds the birds each day; they don't plant or harvest or store away food in barns.

Those who **trust in God** . . . are blessed.

"But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit." - **Jeremiah 17:7-8**

In our lives, we may have seasons of drought . . . we may feel parched & dry, but it does not mean God doesn't love us – or we are not blessed.

- **"Nothing can ever separate us from God's love." – Rom. 8:38**
- **The O.T. blessings** were dependent on the people's obedience.
- **The N.T. blessings** are dependent on the goodness of God alone.

Sometimes – in suffering trials – we don't feel very blessed.

Suffering itself isn't a blessing, but it **draws us** closer to God – **that's the blessing.**

Spurgeon once said, **"anything is a blessing that makes us pray."**

- To be blessed is to know God is refining you, maturing you, preparing you.
 - **There is no testimony without testing.** . . .
 - **No overcoming** w/o a challenge. **No victory** w/o hardship.
 - **No witness** w/o testing. **No faith** w/o trials.
- To be blessed is to know U have a God on whom U can depend, not your strength.
- To be blessed is to know when U are weak, U are in **God's sustaining arms**.
- To be blessed is to know **all things** work for good . . . so you have peace.
- To be blessed is to live with **eyes fixed on Jesus** . . . not the mountain/giant.
- To be blessed is to have certainty of God's love, **know** His promises are true.

1 Peter 4:19 NIV – **"So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good."**

- Some go thru trials & become discouraged, they give up. Don't!

Nov. 19 – Blessed!

We are looking at what it means to be blessed. The Bible's description of blessed is certainly different than what many people have in mind.

Blessed are those

Nov. 26 - Thanksgiving – online only. What do I have to be thankful for?

Dec. 3 – Finding Hope at Christmas

C-mas begins with hope. The hope of a promise to be fulfilled. Anticipation. It continues in us today – hope that God changes things. Brings good. As a Christian, my hope is in **the return** of Jesus, **the resurrection** of the dead and **the renewal** of all things.

Dec. 10 – Finding Joy at Christmas

Dec. 17 – Finding Love at Christmas

Nail'd it! Jesus nailed it to the cross.

Revelations – requested by several people (Kimmie, Cheryl)

Questions from Acts and Romans – Susan and Bruce

