

East Jackson Church of Christ – Midweek Bible Class

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Is A Blessed Life

Part 2

D. Under The Favor Of God

Food for thought:

1. What are some blessings that God has given you?
2. Which is better “good things” or “things that work together for good”?
3. Are God’s blessings provisional?

11. From the sermon series “A Covenant People”, we learned that the people of Israel were God’s _____ under the first covenant and because of that they were blessed to be “under the favor of God” in that God would “_____” the blessings upon them and “_____” the blessing for them.

a. see Deuteronomy 7:6-26; 28:1-14

b. Can you remember various instances where these blessings were provided?

12. There are _____ ways in which God blesses or bestows His favor upon those of us in Christ under the New Covenant.

a. In Matthew 6:8-13, after Jesus assures us that God knows the _____ that we _____, He teaches us of ways that God bestows His favor (blesses) those who are His in His _____ prayer.

(1) v. 11 gives us our _____

(2) v. 12 _____ our trespasses

(3) v. 13 _____ us from _____

b. in Matthew 6:25-34, the favor of God keeps us from _____ and from _____ because He adds these things (daily needs) to our lives. We are blessed!

c. There are many other ways in which God bestows favor on us because we are His in Christ

(1) Hebrews 12:5-11, His _____ is a blessing;

(2) Hebrews 13:5-6, His _____ and _____ are blessings;

(3) Titus 2:13; 1 Peter 1:3, the _____ we have in Christ is a blessing;

(4) 1 Peter 5:7; Hebrews 4:14-16, His _____ as we face our _____ is a blessing;

(5) 1 Corinthians 10:13; Revelation 3:8, His making a _____ and opening up _____ for us are blessings.

(6) What others can you name?

13. Note these five requisites that affect the blessings (see Deuteronomy 28:1-2;

Romans 8:28; James 1:5-8; 4:3-6)

a. the _____ of _____ is in God's hands

b. the _____ who wants to be blessed must be one who is _____ in heart and mind (see Luke 18:9-14)

c. the element of _____ is involved in that we must _____ God (Matthew 22:37);

d. the _____ of God are important. It is by _____ to His word that we open the door to many blessings.

e. the _____ of God is always in God's _____. There may be blessings tied to our place in His purpose.

E. The Favorable Experience In God

Food for thought:

1. What brings you happiness?

2. What does it mean to be *makarios* (blessed, happy)?

3. Which is better "good things" or "things that work together for good"?

14. As we have studied, one use of the word "blessed" carries the idea of happiness. It means to live in a favorable _____ with a favorable _____ because we are being favored by God.

a. Happiness is a state of _____ and the constant _____ of those in Christ.

b. Like joy and peace, blessedness (happiness) is based on the _____, no matter the circumstance of the outer man.

c. Practical Word Studies In The New Testament states the following on page 217: "The word blessed means inward and spiritual _____ and _____; an inner

_____ and confidence that carries one through all the trials and temptations of life no matter the pain, sorrow, loss, or grief. Simply stated, the person is _____ in this life. He knows that God is looking after him and is going to deliver him from the corruption and evil of this life, including death, and give him eternal life.

15. There are numerous requisites to being happy, satisfied, content and blessed life, but this study shall highlight a few. For each one of them, consider

Food For Thought:

1. Why so? What is the benefit of this one?

a. Psalm 144:15; 40:4

b. Psalm 1:1

c. Psalm 32:1

d. Psalm 94:12; Job 5:17

e. Psalm 119:1-2

f. James 1:12

g. James 1:25

h. Revelation 14:13

16. A blessed (happy) person is one who displays the _____ of the _____ of Matthew 5:1-2.

a. v. 3 to be happy (blessed), we must be _____

b. v. 4 to be happy (blessed), we must be _____ (could be a reference to something like godly sorrow, see 2 Corinthians 7:6-12; Luke 18:13-14; 22:61-62)

- c. v. 5 to be happy (blessed,) we must be learn to _____ in dealing with others. Meekness has to do with gentleness or consideration. It is to be strong, but tender (see 2 Corinthians 10:1).
- d. v. 6 to be happy (blessed),, we must have a _____ for the righteousness of God (Psalm 63:1; Philippians 3:8-9)
- e. v. 7 to be happy (blessed), we must _____ on others (Matthew 181-35)
- f. v. 8 to be happy (blessed), we must be _____ or for real. Not have selfish motives (see 1 Peter 1:22; Philippians 2:3).
- g. v. 9 to be happy (blessed), we must produce and promote _____ (Hebrews 12:14; James 3:17).
- h. v. 10-12 to be happy (blessed), you have to endure _____ as a child of God (James 1:2-4; Job 23:10). There is joy in suffering as a Christian, 1 Peter 4:12-14.

F. The Favorable Expression Because of God

Food for thought:

1. God’s unique blessing is positional, but is it also provisional?
2. Should the Christian be a reservoir or a river when it comes to God’s blessing?
3. Does God bless an individual just for his/her sake only?

17. We can _____ the reception of blessings from God.

- a. by our _____ (Isaiah 59:1-2; James 1:4-6)
- b. by our _____ (Malachi 3:8-12; James 4:1-10)
- c. by our _____ (Matthew 25:24-30; Luke 18:22-23; 1 John 3:17)

18. In Genesis 12:1-3, God promised to “bless” Abraham. But at the end of verse 2, God said *and you shall _____ a blessing.*

- a. The Christian life is a blessed life in that we are blessed and we are a blessing to the _____ and to the _____.
- b. We are not to be a _____ that stores up the blessings we receive, but a _____ that continually _____ blessings while continually _____ blessings to others. (see Acts 20:35; Matthew 10:5-10; Luke 6:38).

18. Psalm 128 is a final word of encouragement.

- a. Note that the “blessed” of verse 1 and the “happy” of verse 2 are the Hebrew word *esher* (see #1/2 of this lesson).
- b. The “blessed” of verses 4-5 is the Hebrew word *barak*.
- c. Conclusion: _____ of “blessed” (God’s Pronouncing good – favor upon and God’s Providing good – favor toward) flows from our fearing God and walking in His ways