

BLESSED

“Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation” (Psalms 68:19). We are of all people the most blessed! Isn’t it astounding when we fail to see this? *Vines* defines blessings as “to cause to prosper, to make happy, to bestow blessings on” (133). No doubt God has caused our “cups” to overflow. In Psalms 68:19 we can read about the blessings we receive.

We can see who bestows our blessings. **The Lord** is the one who bestows blessings upon us. God has always blessed His people. God promised to bless Abraham. “Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will show thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 12:1-3). These were not idle promises. In Genesis 24:1 we read, “And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things”. It is important to recognize that the blessings of God are conditional. In dealing with Israel God promised to bless them if they would continue in His commandments. “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” (Deuteronomy 11:26-28). God’s blessings are still available. Do we choose to obey His commandments or to reject them?

We can also see “when” our blessings are given unto us. The Lord blesses us **daily**. In a physical sense, God blesses us daily. Christ in teaching His disciples to pray, taught them to ask, “Give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11). Truly this passage shows God’s goodness to provide, but also, it shows man’s dependence upon God. Burton Coffman in his commentary on *Matthew* writes:

“‘Daily bread’ brings one back to the level of actual need. Dependence upon God is also taught. True, man may have a month’s provisions stored up, but whether he lives to use them or not is totally dependent upon the Father’s will. In the comprehensive sense of this prayer, daily bread comes only from God” (81).

Space would not allow us to innumerate every blessing we receive daily, but this multitude of blessings should cause us to be exceedingly thankful. There is also a spiritual sense in which God blesses us daily. God made His promise to Abraham to bless him with a great land, great nation, and that all families of the earth would be blessed. (cf. Genesis 12:1-3). In Christ this promise to bless all nations is fulfilled. “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:26-29). This is not an “off and on” blessing. Christ says, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).

The Lord does not bless **sparingly**. We can’t out give God! Christ said, “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with

the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again” (Luke 6:38). W. Wayne Coats writes of this verse in the *Firm Foundation Lectureship Book on Luke*:

“The Law of reciprocity will usually find its way back into our bosom either with a blessing or curse. We must not give with the mere expectation of getting in return, but in the manner we measure, the same manner will be measured to us. God can out give us any day and he promises that his measure will be good, pressed, shaken down, and running over. How can we disbelieve God? He has proved his beneficence many thousands of times, yet we still remain skeptical” (155).

How could we fathom that God would be stingy? Remember this is the God who has given His Son (cf. John 3:16). Christ makes the argument that man, with all his faults, knows how to give. Don’t you think that God, who is good and faultless, knows whom to bless. “Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him” (Matthew 7:9-11).

Could any words sum up God’s blessings toward His children better than what David said? “I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed” (Psalms 37:25,26). God is merciful and His seed is blessed.

Ronnie Hayes from Vigil

ANNIVERSARY

Chris and Sarah Edwards, 12-29.

BIRTHDAYS

Tammy Marcum, 12-27; Jessica Carter, 12-30.

ILL

Sunday: Millie Robertson (PM).

Wednesday: Millie Robertson.

Tom Tucker is undergoing treatment on his back for his leg pain.

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, David Cole, Shauna Heck, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Trent and Leah Thrasher are visiting relatives in Owensville, Missouri. Ed and Verna Hanson plan to leave for their Florida winter home this week. Chris Edwards was away on business last week. John and Barbara James are in Yuma, Arizona for a few months.

LADIES CLASS

The Ladies Bible Class will resume on Wednesday, December 30 at 10 AM.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held next Sunday, January, 3, 2010 following our AM worship. All are invited to come and enjoy the good food and company.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 44; Sunday PM, 31; Wednesday PM, 31.

Those To Serve

December 27, 2009

BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Thrasher (2)

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Trent Thrasher

SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson

OPENING PRAYER George Thomas

PRESIDE..... John Dodson

ASSIST..... Chris Edwards

ASSIST..... John James

CLOSING PRAYER..... Stanley Anderson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Jared Nelson

CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemechek

LORD'S SUPPER..... John Dodson

WEDNESDAY Dec. 30th

SONG LEADER..... 5th Weds. Singing

INVITATION John Cody Carter

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Morning Worship 10:30 AM

Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

Phone: (913) 764-2325

E-mail: olathecofc@sbcglobal.net

CHURCH OF CHRIST

515 WEST PARK

P.O. BOX 482

OLATHE, KANSAS 66051

www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm

www.oabs.org/olathe.asp