

Blessings...Prayers of Thankfulness

“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18

“For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude.” 1 Timothy 4:4

“I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonders.” Psalms 9:1

“Praise the Lord! Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy is everlasting.” Psalms 106:1

December Birthdays

17 Bill Brown 18 Alexis Brown 31 Bob Pescador

December Anniversaries

12 Ron & Peggy Woodruff 18 Jim & Marie Burruss

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Website:
indiochurchofchrist.com

Preacher:
Jack Critchfield

Church of Christ
81-377 Ave 46
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

Indio Informer

Vol. 33 No. 51

December 18, 2022

Blessings

By Joe Chesser

Blessings probably aren't what you think they are. I may be way off base, but I have a sneaky suspicion that when most people think of blessings, they only think one dimensionally. Blessings are things that make us happy or satisfied or comfortable. For most people, blessings are only things that are good and/or pleasing, such as good health, good jobs, good families, good times, good church, etc. Blessings are things like having a safe trip or having a good meal or having a comfortable place to sleep. Indeed, these truly are blessings, but

On the other hand, it's rarely considered a blessing to have a car wreck or to lose a job or to get sick. It doesn't seem like much of a blessing to have the stock market drop or to not get a promotion. Things that happen which are not only unpleasant but that may even be harmful are rarely seen as blessings. Generally speaking, from the world's view point, blessings are defined as things or events that are good within themselves. That's why the dictionary defines "blessing" as "a thing conducive to happiness or welfare."

Thankfully, God sees "blessings" much differently and enables Christians to see "blessings" through His eyes, not the eyes of the world. While the world seeks events and circumstances that bring pleasure for the moment, God sees a much broader picture. He works things out for our good in relation to eternity (Romans 8:28). The journey may not be pleasant at all, but the destination brings the greatest possible reward (Hebrews 11:25-26; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18). God knows how to turn tragedy into triumph. But even more important, He has promised to do it for each and every one of us who "love him, and are called according to his purpose."

For the Christian, blessings must be seen only through the eyes of God. Knowing that God wants only what is best for us, knowing

that God can turn anything Satan can do into victory for His people, and knowing that God is more concerned about creating God-like character than about providing pleasant circumstances, allows us to understand His “blessings” in a much different way. Job’s faith and understanding of God made it possible for him to endure the loss of his flocks and herds, his children, and even his own health without blaming God. In fact, he “fell to the ground in worship” and said “may the name of the Lord be praised” (Job 1:20-21).

So, when we don’t get the job we wanted, we know it is a blessing from God. When our prayers aren’t answered in just the way we expected them to be, we know that God is blessing you in greater ways. When life hands us a lemon, we don’t have to make lemonade. Just see the lemons as blessings from God and wait on Him to make whatever He wants out of those lemons. One thing’s for sure – it will be a blessing!

Overflowing: Abundant

By Bruce Evans

As a couple, they were known for welcoming many into their home. Entertaining a large group of people had become second nature. But such wasn’t always the case. At first there was the constant fear that the menu that had been planned wouldn’t be adequate to amply serve all the invited guests. However, that fear ebbed away as they made the decision to always have more than enough; an abundance. If there were “leftovers”, they could be shared with others, not a problem.

Not to equate the abundance as noted above as being on par with how blessed we are from God, but simply using it as a backdrop. For truly God has an abundance, that He is more than willing to share. He is generous beyond what words can fully describe. Even still Paul, tried as seen in Ephesians 3:20-21. *“Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.”* In chapter one and verse three of Ephesians we are reminded that God *“blessed us with every spiritual blessing.”*

James notes, *“Every good thing bestowed, and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom*

there is no variation or shifting shadow.” (1:17) In conjunction with this is what is seen in 1Thessalonians 5:18, *“in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”* When was the last time we stopped long enough to think about all the ways in which God has abundantly blessed us?

In Matthew the fourteenth chapter, Jesus leaves a powerful example of thankfulness for daily food, and the need to express gratitude to the Father. Throughout the pages of the Scriptures, one realizes that God has so richly provided for us physically. The wherewithal to be able to work and provide, it as well is a gift from God, which is something Solomon addresses in Ecclesiastes. Be thankful for the small things in life. The beauty of a flower. The flight of a hummingbird. The sound of rain on the roof. Reasons to be thankful abound and that due to the abundance of overflowing blessings emanating from our heavenly Father.

It is kind of interesting the way Paul begins to draw to a conclusion in his first letter to Timothy. *“But godliness is actually a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment. For we brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.”* (6:6-8) Paul tied together the spiritual and the physical with the subtle reminder to be thankful for both and the recognition of the abundance provided thereof.

Out of the abundance of God’s surpassing love, those who have obeyed the gospel are called *“children of God”* (1John 3:1) His grace provides amply as Paul notes in 2Corinthians 9:8. *“And God is able to make all grace to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.”* There is always more than enough when God is our source, *“but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (1Corinthians 15:57)

An attitude of gratitude should be part and parcel for the child of God. Never taking all that God has provided for granted. *“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.”* (Colossians 3:15) *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made to God.”* (Philippians 4:6)