

A Blessed Life

Text: Psalms 1:1-6 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 *The ungodly are not so:* but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Psalms 112:1-10 Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. 2 His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed. 3 Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever. 4 Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous. 5 A good man showeth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion. 6 Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. 7 He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD. 8 His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies. 9 He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour. 10 The wicked shall see it, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: the desire of the wicked shall perish.

Proverbs: 20:7 The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.

Introduction: Today is a special day – FATHER’S DAY! Men’s day! Mothers had their special day in May – it’s time for OUR DAY!

An interesting fact concerning Father’s Day vs Mother’s Day:

- In 2023, Americans spent \$22.9 billion on Father’s Day – BUT - Americans spent 35.7 billion on Mother’s Day -- 56% more was spent on Mothers than Fathers (ref.: Caplin News)
BUT – THAT’S OK! - MEN DON’T REALLY CARE – WE’RE GENTLEMEN – WE’RE USED TO SECOND PLACE WHEN LADIES ARE INVOLVED! **Moms ARE special and deserve all the honor they can get!**

Proverbs 31 is a text often preached on Mother’s Day. It is the “Mother’s Day Chapter of the Bible.” It lists some unique characteristics of a Blessed Mother. The following is just a small sample:

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her; so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

Upon this special Father’s Day Service, I want to bring to your attention a sermon especially for fathers. Although it is directed to them, it can be applied to anyone who desires to live life to its fullest- Anyone who wishes to have a Blessed Life – a life well lived – a successful life – an Honorable and Noble Life – a life that leaves behind a challenge for others - a life that is marked by outward signs of GOD’S FAVOR AND BLESSINGS - isn’t that the ultimate goal of every person who has ever lived upon the earth? If it isn’t our ultimate goal, it really should be!

I. A Christian Man’s Responsibility to his Family varies:

As a Father, he wears many HATS! He is:

- God’s appointed head of the family unit!
- A loving husband to his spouse?
- A Protector and shield against intruders and threatening dangers?
- A loving anchor of stability for his children?
- A Teacher and disciplinarian to the children who stands true to the teaching of God’s Word?

- A faithful provider for the physical needs of his home?
- A caretaker for the home – lawn care? painter? – carpenter? – plumber? – electrician?
- A general helper as needed to his wife in household duties?
- A good friend to others?
- A good neighbor who is quick to assist others in the community?

Special Spiritual Duties:

- An example worthy for children to follow in their walk with God?
- A prayer warrior who intercedes for his family?
- A faithful church member?
- A faithful helper to Pastor and Church Leadership?

**II. A Blessed Life – As Proverbs 31 speaks to Mothers, our chosen TEXT speaks to Fathers:
The Bible calls such a life --- ABUNDANT LIFE**

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Proverbs 10:22 The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

17 Promises from God to the Godly Man:

- 1) he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season;
- 2) his leaf also shall not wither; (taken care of by God in droughts)
- 3) whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.
- 4) his seed shall be mighty upon earth:
- 5) the generation of the upright shall be blessed.
- 6) wealth and riches shall be in his house:
- 7) a good man showeth favor, and lendeth
- 8) unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness:
- 9) surely he shall not be moved for ever:
- 10) the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.
- 11) he shall not be afraid of evil tidings:
- 12) his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD.
- 13) his heart is established.
- 14) he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies.
- 15) his righteousness endureth for ever;
- 16) his horn shall be exalted with honour. → (horn meaning – name or household or portion)
- 17) his children are blessed after him.

III. OUR TEXT LISTS 5 Different Categories of God's Blessings Promised to a Godly Man

1. *Spiritual Promises:*

John 4:14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

- he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season
- his leaf also shall not wither; (taken care of by God in droughts)
- his heart is established

2. *Earthly Promises:*

- the generation of the upright shall be blessed
- whatsoever he doeth shall prosper
- wealth and riches shall be in his house

3. *Promises of Help from God in Trouble:*
 - unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness
 - surely he shall not be moved for ever
 - his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord
 - he shall not be afraid of evil tidings
 - he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies
4. *Promises to become a Blessing to Others:*
 - a good man showeth favor, and lendeth
 - his seed shall be mighty upon earth
 - his children are blessed after him
5. *Promise of Eternal Blessings:*
 - the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance
 - his horn shall be exalted with honor
 - his righteousness endureth for ever

IV. Let's Compare the Blessed Life of Christians with the Lifestyle of those away from GOD!

Psalms 1

- *The ungodly are not so:* (they are DIFFERENT - the BLESSINGS of GOD are **NOT** in their lives)
- *(they)* are like the chaff which the wind driveth away
- the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment,
- nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous
- the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Psalms 112

- The wicked shall see it, (the righteous blessed - his horn shall be exalted with honour) and be grieved
- he shall gnash with his teeth
- (the wicked shall) melt away
- the desire of the wicked shall perish.

V. Closing - If the Bible is TRUE and there is such a difference between God's People and all others, why isn't everyone a Christian?

The Christian Way of Life is OPEN TO ALL BUT CHOSEN BY FEW: WHY IS THIS SO?

Remember our TEXT – the blessing belong to those who: walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. (**Psalms 1**) Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. (**Psalms 112**).

THE BLESSING ARE PROMISED TO THOSE WHO LIVE THIS WAY! THE TRUE CHRISTIAN!

Mark 10:17-25 (RICH YOUNG RULER) And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. **And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.**

THE LORD DID NOT LOWER HIS REQUIREMENTS TO ACCEPT THE RICH YOUNG RULER ON HIS OWN TERMS. THE RICH YOUNG RULER HAD TO FOLLOW THE SAME COMMON PATH AS ALL OTHER DISCIPLES TO OBTAIN ETERNAL LIFE AND GOD'S BLESSING!

The Christian way of life:

- a) *NOT EASY – THE WAY OF THE WORLD IS MUCH EASIER – this is a Straight & Narrow Path - BUT IT IS THE BEST PATH OF LIFE – THE PATH OF GOD'S PROMISES & FAVOR*
- b) *A Cross must be carried by all who come this way*
- c) *God demands for a person to DENY themselves and live holy according to biblical teachings*
- d) *A devil and a fallen world must be fought against*
- e) *Sometimes family & friends must be forsaken if they choose to live contrary to God's Teachings*

Joshua 24:14-16 Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. And the people answered and said, **God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods;**

JOSHUA AND THE FOLLOWERS OF GOD CHOSE WISELY – WHAT PATH WILL WE CHOOSE!

WE ALL MAKE OUR OWN PERSONAL CHOICES EVERYDAY CONCERNING WHO TO FOLLOW FOR A BLESSED LIFE AND WHICH PATH TO TAKE TO FIND TRUTH!