

The Blessings of God

by Mike Burnham

Proverbs 10:22; not chance or luck but God gives the increase, Eccl. 5:18,19. "and he addeth no sorrow with it" contentment and comfort come with God's blessings, whereas the riches which wicked men get are attended with many discontents, cares, fears and dread.

1 Sam. 2:7; God is the sovereign disposer of material wealth. If it is received by birth or inheritance, it is by his providence. If it comes by gift, he moved the donors to bestow. If it accumulates as the result of hard work, skill, or thrift, he bestowed the talent, directed its use, and granted the success...Gen. 24:35, 26:12, Deut. 8:17,18.

God is also the giver of all spiritual blessings...Eph. 1:3,4. These begin with the work he does in our lives in salvation...Psa 65:4. A beautiful figure or picture is given to us in Psa. 133:3; the dew descends from above silently, mysteriously, and moistens the ground, imparting life to dead, rotten, corrupted seeds, making the mountainside fruitful. This is like the new birth.

Psa. 89:15; this is one of the blessed effects of the new birth. What is this joyful sound? The glad tidings of good things...Rom. 10:15. I believe it's the joyful sound of the bells of the high priest as he went into the holy place and came out...Exo. 28:33-35. It gave evidence that God had accepted the sacrifice and that the grace and mercy of God would shine upon them. What a beautiful sound that must have been to them. What a beautiful sound it is that Jesus came to save sinners. I believe it's the joyful sound of the trumpet of jubilee...Lev. 25:9,10. It proclaimed liberty to slaves and restored their inheritance which had been forfeited. What music it is to the ears of saved that they are set free from the slavery of sin and that which was forfeited in the fall of Adam is restored in Jesus Christ.

Psa. 2:12; "kiss the son" means to bow in submission to his authority, yield to his kingly rule, and render allegiance to him (1Kings 19:18). Christ must be received as lord (master) before he can really be received as Saviour...Col. 2:6. To "put their

trust in him" signifies to "take refuge in", by committing themselves to his keeping for time and eternity.

Psa. 32:1; as the ark, which held the tables of the law, was covered by the mercy seat sprinkled with the blood of an innocent victim, so what a blessing it is to know I am forgiven and my sins are covered to such an extent that God will remember them no more through Jesus Christ my mercy seat (Rom. 3:25) and his shed blood sprinkled over my transgressions, my iniquities, my trespasses.

Psa. 84:5; this is another accompaniment of the new birth. The believer now sees himself to be not only without any righteousness of his own, but also is conscious of his weakness and insufficiency. He declares as Isaiah did; isa. 45:24. Through Christ we have the strength to fight the good fight of faith, to resist temptations, to endure persecution, to perform our duty. Those ways of God's strength are feeding on the word, abiding in Christ and adhering to the path of his commands.

Psa. 128:1; to be blessed we have to have a deep reverence for God that results in regular obedience to him. The fear of the lord is a holy awe of his majesty, a dread of displeasing him...Psa. 4:4. It is not so much an emotional thing as practical, for it is idle to talk about fearing God if we have no deep concern for his will. It is the fear of love which shrinks from dishonoring him, a dread of forgetting his goodness and abusing his mercy.