

BLESSING THE LORD OUR GOD

Introduction

- 1) **Deuteronomy 8:10** – “...then you shall bless the Lord your God...”
 - a) “Bless” (Heb. *barak*) – to kneel, bless; to adore with bended knee
 - b) To give thanks (see Matt. 26:26-27 blessed = gave thanks)
- 2) Comes within the context of **Deuteronomy 8** where the nation of Israel receives important instructions as they prepare to enter the Promised Land – begins with the importance of obeying God’s word (vv. 1-6)
- 3) These instructions contain principles that are still important for us today who live in a society that tries to avoid any hardships and craves abundant prosperity as a measure of success
- 4) While we can and should enjoy our blessings, let us remember where they come from

I) **REMEMBER and DO NOT FORGET**

- A) After a difficult trek through the wilderness, the children of Israel are told of the wonderful blessings that await them in the Promised Land (Deut. 8:7-10)
 - 1) Clean water, fertile fields, and abundant mines
 - 2) When they are full, they are to thank God for His blessings
- B) Warned not to forget the Lord God (Deut. 8:11-17)
 - 1) This “forgetting” would be manifested by not keeping His commandments
 - 2) “Lip-service” is not the same as truly remembering or thanking the Lord (Isa. 29:13)
 - 3) Danger is that abundant blessings will cause us to have hearts filled with self-pride that forget the Lord and credit ourselves for what we have (Lk. 12:16-19)
- C) Must remember that God enables us to enjoy the blessings of life (Deut. 8:18)
 - 1) God provides the blessings and our ability to gather them to ourselves
 - 2) God’s gifts may be worked and enhanced by our hands and our strength, but it is still a gift, for it is God who gives us our hands and our strength (Eccl. 5:18-19)

II) **From THANKSGIVING to THANKS-LIVING**

- A) What God desires is not just a momentary “tipping of the hat,” but a daily life filled with thankfulness (Eph. 5:20 – *giving thanks always for all things*; Col. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:18)
 - 1) Goes beyond just being thankful for fine houses and full bellies, because it calls upon us to be thankful and joyful even when oppressed, persecuted, afflicted, and frustrated in this life (Phil. 4:6-7); instead we grumble and complain in our wealth
- B) “Thanks-living” is a deep, humble, consistent, reverent life of thankfulness that manifests itself in daily obedience and service to God and man regardless of the outward circumstances of life (Psa. 100 – based on God’s goodness, mercy, and truth)
- C) When we *remember to live thankfully*, it blesses and transforms us even during the trials of life (Col. 2:6-7); if we *forget to live thankfully*, hard things get harder and we become bitter, desperately grasping on to “our things” we think we deserve, deceiving ourselves (Rom. 1:21)
 - 1) Learning to be content and thankful for what God has given us will enrich our hearts and life to make us happy and profitable servants to God and one another
- D) Keys to thankful living (Psa. 131)
 - 1) Humility (v. 1), Contentment (v. 2), Trust (v. 3)

Conclusion

God’s will for us is to pray without ceasing and in everything give thanks (Col. 3:15) – there is no better medicine for the troubled and downcast soul. Let us do so today, this week, this year, and throughout our lives!