

## **The Blessing of God Part III**

June 28, 2006

### **Deut. 28:1-2 (NKJV)**

"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. [2] And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God:

### **Deut. 28:15 (NKJV)**

"But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:

For the past two weeks I have been teaching on the subject of the "Blessings of God".

### **First, I talked about how God promised to bless Abraham.**

God said to Abraham .....

### **Genesis 12:2 (NKJV)**

I will make you a great nation;  
I will bless you  
And make your name great;  
And you shall be a blessing.

And God blessed Abraham, and that blessing was also evident in Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.

### **Proverbs 10:22 (NKJV) says:**

The blessing of the Lord makes one rich,  
And He adds no sorrow with it.

**God's blessings are real!** And the news is: He wants to bless His people.

**Galatians 3:13,14 (NKJV)** says,

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, ...that the blessing of Abraham might come upon us.

**John 10:10 (NKJV)** says,

that Jesus came so that we might have life and have it more abundantly.

Get this fact firmly established in your mind; The Lord wants you to be blessed!

### **Last week I talked about Psalm I**

In the first three verses of that Psalm, God makes it crystal clear that He wants to bless us and He tells us what we must do in order to enjoy His blessings in our lives.

Three things we must not do if we want to enjoy God's blessings.

1. You must not walk in the counsel of the ungodly.  
(walk in the council of the godly)
2. You must not stand in the path of sinners.  
(stand in the path of the righteous)
3. You must not sit in the seat of the scornful.  
(sit in the seat of those who love God)

### **I talked about the progression found in those verses.**

If you start walking with the ungodly people who don't have time for the things of God, soon you will be standing in the path of sinners doing the same things they are doing. And that will lead to sitting with the scornful, you will cast your lot with those who openly reject God, and who are scornful of those who are serving Him.

### **So if you want God's blessings on your life, you must not:**

1. Walk in the counsel of the ungodly.
2. Stand in the path of sinners.
3. Sit in the seat of the scornful.

The Psalmist doesn't stop with telling us what **not** to do, He also tells us what to **do**.

1. We must delight in the law of the Lord.
2. We must meditate in it day and night.

**The Bible says,**

**Psalm 37:4 (NKJV)**

Delight yourself also in the Lord,  
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

If you want God's blessings, you must develop a desire for the word of God. Delight in it; Meditate in it; think about it day and night; make it the rule book for your life.

**And do what it says:**

**If you do that God promises three things:**

1. You will be like a fruit tree that God has planted by a river of water.
2. You shall bring forth fruit.
3. You leaf shall not wither.

**What wonderful promises!**

**The last three verses of Psalm I gives us in no uncertain terms what will happen to the person who rejects God's plan for blessing.**

1. He will be like the chaff, which the wind drives away.
2. He will not stand in the judgment. He will have no defense. No leg to stand on when God comes to judge the earth.
3. Finally, it says that he shall perish!

**Proverbs 16:25 (NKJV)**

“There is a way that seems right to a man,  
But its end is the way of destruction.”

**That bring me to what I want to talk to you tonight about.**

In God's word, we find that God promises blessings to those who will obey Him. But He promises curses to those who will not obey Him.

Some people accept the fact that God has promised blessings, but they reject the idea of curses.

**But that sort of reasoning is unacceptable.**

The opposite of hot is cold; both are real.

The opposite of good is evil; both are real.

The opposite of blessings of God are the curses of God; both are real.

Some suggest that the Old Testament depicts God as a God of wrath and judgment and the New Testament depicts Him as a God of love and mercy.

**That is not true!**

**The truth is- both the Old Testament and the New Testament are consistent with each other.**

Both depict God as being at one and the same time a God of mercy and a God of judgment.

**You find it throughout the Bible.**

**In Joshua Chapter 6:**

The whole city of Jericho was destroyed under the judgment of God, but the harlot Rahab and her entire family were saved because of God's mercy.

**Paul explains these two aspects of God:**

**Romans 1:16-18 (NKJV)** Paul said,

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,... [17] For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith;

**And the next verse says:**

[18] For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men....”

**On one hand-** In His mercy God offers His righteousness, which He imparts to those who receive Christ as their Savior.

**Yet at the same time**, the crucifixion is also the ultimate revelation of God’s wrath. Even Jesus could not make sin acceptable to God. He had to endure the full out pouring of God’s wrath when He became identified with man’s sin and became our substitute.

**Romans 11:22 (NKJV)** says:

“Consider the goodness and severity of God...”

That’s what I’m attempting to do here today.

To get an accurate picture of God we must keep both aspects of His character before us. His blessings proceed out of His kindness, His judgments proceed out of His severity; both are equally real!

**That brings me to my text for tonight’s message.**

**Deuteronomy Chapter 28** is devoted to the theme of the blessings and the curses of God.

And it tells us very specifically the primary cause of each one.

**Verse 1 and 2 of chapter 28 deals with the cause of blessings.**

Pay close attention to what it says:

**Deut. 28:1-2 (NKJV)**

"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments ..... [2] And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God.”

**To put it very simple, the conditions for enjoying the blessings are:**

1. Listen to God's voice.
2. Do what He says.

**This principle is consistent throughout the Bible.**

**In Exodus 19:5 (NKJV)**

When God was about to enter into His first covenant with Israel at Sinai, He said,

“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people....”

**What did they have to do?** Listen to God's voice and obey what He said.

**Under the new covenant in John 10:27 (NKJV)**

Jesus said to His sheep (His true disciples)

“My sheep hear My voice, .....and they follow Me.”

**The basic requirements are still the same, hearing the Lord's voice and following Him in obedience.**

**In the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter of Luke, Jesus said,**

**Luke 6:46 (NKJV)**

"But why do you call Me 'Lord, and do not do the things which I say?"

He said, “ A person who hears My sayings and does them is a wise man and when the storms come against him He will stand.

The principle is, “Hearing God's voice and doing what He says.”

**In Deut. 28:15 (NKJV)**

"But it shall come to pass, **if you do not** obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these **curse**s will come upon you and overtake you...”

**The cause of the curses is exactly opposite to the cause of the blessing.**

**Blessings** come from hearing God's voice and doing what He says.

**Curses** come from not hearing God's voice and not doing what He says!

It can be summed up in one word- rebellion. Rebellion against God!

So it's really very simple.

If you want God's blessings, listen to His voice and do what He says. If you do, you will enjoy the blessings listed in verse 3 through 13.

If you don't listen to His voice and you don't do what He says, then you will experience the curses that are mentioned in verses 16 through 68 of Deut. 28.

**The blessings and the curses have to do with every area of your life.**

I'm not going to deal with all of them tonight, I am going to deal with only one of them. But it is one that affects a lot of people, and that is the area of your personal finances.

**Your finances are either blessed of God or they are cursed of God.**

Let me state it very simply:

Prosperity is a blessing.

Poverty is a curse.

Certainly God has great compassion for the poor. But the scripture never suggests that God inflicts poverty as a blessing upon believing people.

**Paul sums up the abundance of God's provision for Christians;**

**2 Cor. 9:8 (NKJV)**

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."

**What a promise!** That's God will for you! God's abundance, not to squander on self-indulgence, but to be used for every good work, to be able to share with others the blessings that have enriched your life.

There will be times God will test you to check if your motives are pure. There may be periods when you struggle financially. But once your motives

have been purified and your faith has stood the test, God will release His abundance to you in the measure that He can trust you to use it for His glory.

**And don't forget, there is a higher level of wealth than just material wealth. Moses found that out.**

**Hebrews 11:26 (NKJV)**

"He esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt."

There are many Christians today who have renounced material wealth deliberately in order to serve God in situations where wealth would be a hindrance, missionaries who minister to the poor and oppressed of the world.

**But God's plan is not for us to live in poverty, but rather to enjoy His abundance.**

Therefore, what about it when you always, forever have to deal with continual financial insufficiency?

It could well be that your finances are under a curse, because you have not listened to God's voice and have not obeyed Him in that area.

God puts it very bluntly in the **Book of Malachi**, He says;

**Malachi 3:9 (NKJV)**

You are cursed with a curse,  
For you have robbed Me..."

**In the Book of Haggai**, God described the people in Israel and it is a description of a lot of Christians today.

He said,

**Haggai 1:6 (NKJV)**

"You have sown much, and bring in little;  
You eat, but do not have enough;  
You drink, but you are not filled with drink;  
You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm;  
And he who earns wages,  
Earns wages to put into a bag with holes."

That is perfect description of a lot of folks today. They earn more money than they ever have, but it doesn't go anywhere. There's not enough to pay the bills.

They are plagued with insufficiency!

God says, "**Consider your ways.**"

In **Malachi 3:10-11 (NKJV)**

He says,

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse,  
That there may be food in My house,  
And try Me now in this,"  
Says the Lord of hosts,  
"If I will not open for you the windows of heaven  
And pour out for you such blessing  
That there will not be room enough to receive it.  
[11] "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes....

**If you are under a curse in your finances, how do you get out from under it?**

**By hearing the word of God and doing what He says.**

Someone may say, we're not under the law anymore, we don't have to give a tithe or offering to the works of the Lord.

That is true, we are not under the law anymore, **we are under grace!**

**The Book of Hebrews** calls the New Covenant a much better covenant than the old covenant. **Christians have entered into a better covenant which was established on better promises.**

It is inconceivable that people who enjoy this better covenant should be less generous in giving to God than those who were under an inferior covenant.

If God's people under laws gave Him their tithes and much more how could Christians under grace possibly justify doing less?

**The Bible says,**

**2 Cor. 9:6 (NKJV)**

“He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

**The principle in the word of God has always been and continues to be. Stringiness toward God provokes His curse, but liberality releases His blessing.**

**God issues a challenge. He says,**

“Give your tithes and offering, put me first in your finances and I will prove to you that I will pour out such blessings that there will not be room enough to receive it.”

The way to having God’s blessing on your finances is to listen to His word and to do what He says.

That is true in every area of your life.

**Let me ask you as I close this message-**

Are you listening to God’s voice?  
Are you doing what He has told you to do?

**Have you received Him as your personal Savior?**

He is calling out to you tonight!

He says,

**Rev. 3:20 (NKJV)**

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

**Hear His voice and obey!**

**Open your heart’s door to Him!**

Give Invitation