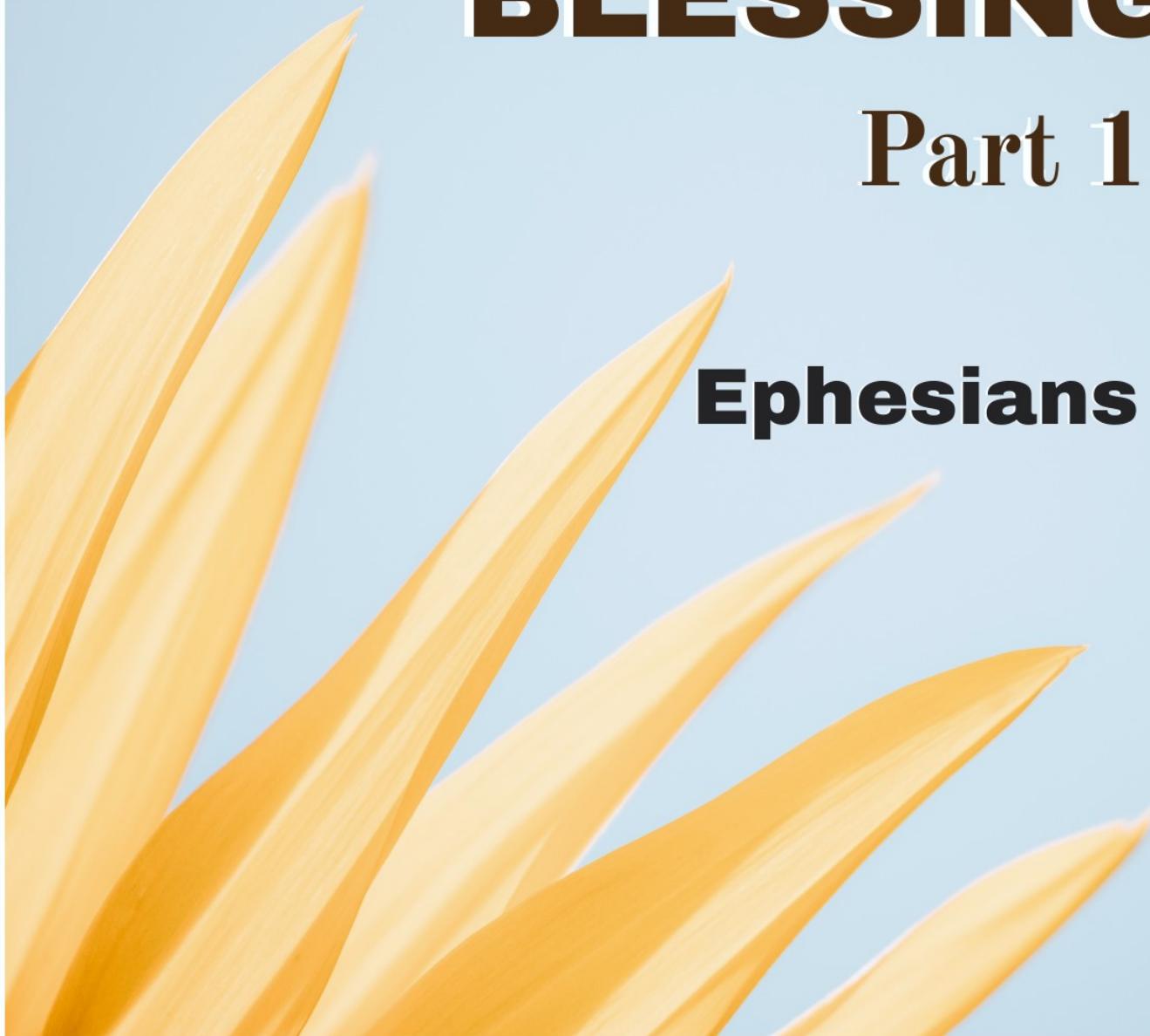


BLESSING GOD

Part 1

Ephesians 1:3



“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ”-Ephesians 1:3.

Notes about words from this text:

Blessed, 1st (eulogetos). This word is used only with reference towards God; never towards men! It means to speak well of, or to praise God! This is what Christians are to do towards God!

Blessed, 2nd (eulogesas). This word is used to refer to what God does towards men. It refers to God distinguishing Christians with favor, or conferring blessings upon them!

The thought in verse 3 is that Christians are to praise God, or to speak well of Him, because of the blessings He has conferred upon them!

I. Examples from HALLEL PSALMS (songs of praise), Psalms 113-118 & 136.

“Praise ye the Lord. Praise, O ye servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forever.

From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord’s name is to be praised.

The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.

Who is like unto the Lord our God, who dwelleth on high”-Psalm 113:1-5.

“He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill”-v. 7.

“He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the Lord”-v. 9.

From verse 9, consider Hannah and Elizabeth-see I Samuel 1:11-20; Luke 1:5-15.

Both Hannah and Elizabeth were barren and prayed to God, and God blessed both of them with sons who were powerful instruments in the hand of the Lord!

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward”-Psalms 127:3.

Note: The Hebrew word for heritage means “inheritance.”

Question: Do we recognize the greatness of the blessing of children?



**Will we
return our
children**



**to the Lord
all their
days?**



Hannah did! See I Samuel 1:11

“I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications.

Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.

I was brought low, and he helped me.

Return unto thy rest, o my soul; for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee.

For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling”-Psalms 116:1, 2, 6b, 7, & 8.

Consider:

1. Paul and Silas’s peaceful countenance and acceptance of a terrible beating and imprisonment-Acts 16:25. “*And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God.*”

In a very severe context, they were “at peace” with what had happened to them, and stayed on their course of service to God!

Notice that the end of verse 25 says that they sang praises to God!

Why do you think the jailor cried out and said, “*Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*”-Acts 16:30.

The only “clue” we can find from the context is that the jailor heard these two brothers praising God for their salvation!

WHAT AN EXAMPLE!!

2. Consider the statement of the Psalmist in Psalms 73:18.

There, he said, “*Surely thou didst set their feet in slippery places: thou casteth them down into destruction.*”

Question: How many times has God delivered us from the slippery places in our life, where we could have spiritually fallen unto our own destruction and separation from God?

I wonder how many times Joseph thanked God for the strength God imparted to him so that he did not fall prey to the seduction of Potiphar's wife? See the record in Genesis 39.

“O PRAISE the Lord, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people.

For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth forever. Praise ye the Lord”
-Psalm 117.

What a difference God makes in a nation and in the life of an individual where He is praised!

The grocery store employee in Hamilton who always says, “God bless you!”

**How refreshing it is to see husbands and wives,
and families who hold hands and pray in a restaurant
before eating their meal!**

**II. Close-the record in Luke 17:11-19 of the Lord
cleansing 10 lepers.**

- A. As bad as leprosy was; sin is far worse!**
- B. It is tragic that 9 of the lepers failed to
thank the Lord for their cleansing!**
- C. It is far more tragic when Christians who
have been cleansed of sin by the precious blood of
Christ, cease thanking God and return back to the
world!**
- D. What category would God place us in?
Would he categorize us with the nine, or the one?**