

Calvary Chapel Portsmouth



Simply teaching the Bible, simply

A Blessed Life

Psalm 1



'Oh bless me indeed'

¹⁰ And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless **me** indeed, and enlarge **my** coast, and that thine hand might be with **me**, and that thou wouldest keep **me** from evil, that it may not grieve **me**! And God granted him that which he requested.

1 Chronicles 4:10

- A formula for blessing?
- A recipe for disaster?

'Oh bless me indeed'

¹⁰ I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands....

Genesis 32:10,26

'Oh bless me indeed'

¹⁰ I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands....

²⁶ And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, **except thou bless me.**

Genesis 32:10,26

- We have seen the Lord's provision...
- Yet we still cry out to be blessed

'Oh bless me indeed'

- Q. What are we seeking?
- A. To prosper in all that we do

Prosperity Gospel?

² Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

3 John 2

- God does not want us to afflict ourselves
- Nowhere is penance prescribed
- God intends an 'abundant life'

Prosperity Gospel?

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. John 10:10

- How do we avail ourselves of this 'abundant life'?
- How can we be truly blessed?

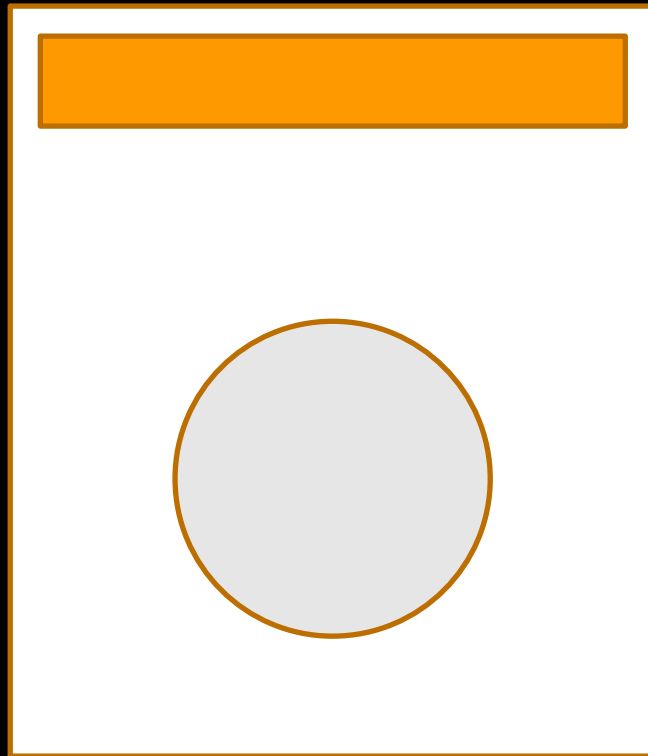
Promised Blessings

- There are at least 70 specific blessings recorded in the scripture
- All are there for the taking!
- Note:
- They are *conditional!*
- Unlike Jabez's prayer, the prescribed blessings require something in return
- Require adherence to instructions

Manufacturers Guarantee

- Manufacturers offer a guarantee of service – sometimes ‘for life’
- However, the guarantee is void if you do not follow the manufacturer's instructions

Manufacturers Guarantee



Manufacturers Guarantee

¹² There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Proverbs 14:12

Manufacturers Guarantee

- As Creator, God knows best!
- If we adhere to His instructions, we will be blessed
- God knows how life should be lived to live it abundantly
- By His grace, through Christ, all can enter into & live a blessed life
- But the degree of blessing depends on you!

The Diligent

4 The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing:
but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

Proverbs 13:4

The Blessed Life

- Universal spiritual law of sowing & reaping
- The choice is yours!



The Blessed Life

Psalm 1:1-6

- 1 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.

Psalm 1:1-6

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.

Psalm 1:1-6

¹ Blessed is the man that ...

Psalm 1:1

- Plurality of blessings (אֲשֶׁרִי) 'esher'
- Not an exclusive offer
- Available to all mankind (אִישׁ,) 'iysh'
- Conditional
- Presents a choice
- Each individual must choose

¹ Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of
the ungodly,

Psalm 1:1

Council of the Ungodly

18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

20 And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.

1 Corinthians 3:18-20

Council of the Ungodly

¹⁹ For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

²⁰ Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

1 Corinthians 3:19-20

- Worldly advice
- Proverbs – handbook of true wisdom

Council of the Ungodly

- Step 1 on a downward slope
- We are walking through life...
- We have a choice who to listen to
- Step 2: the result of listening to the council of the ungodly
- Causes us to stop & 'stand in the way with sinners'
- Step 3: The edges become so blurred we end up sitting & participating

Council of the Ungodly

- Example: Paul
- He had listened to the wisdom of the world – *walking* in their council
- He then ends up *standing* with sinners
- He then finds himself *sitting* in the seat of the scornful – doing what they would do

Council of the Ungodly

- Example: Peter
- He had listened to the wisdom of the world – *walking* in their council
- He then ends up *standing* with sinners
- He then finds himself *sitting* in the seat of the scornful – doing what they would do

Council of the Ungodly

- Example: Eve
- She listened to the wisdom of the Serpent – *walking* in his council
- She then *stands* considering
- She finally *sits* in the seat of the scornful – scorning God's word

Council of the Ungodly

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 12:1-2

Council of the Ungodly

⁴(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

⁵ Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

Council of the Ungodly

- This impacts our lives in two ways:
- 1) Insinuations & suggestions of the 'norm'
 - Our desire to 'fit in' or to 'belong'
- 2) The things we do subconsciously by association and proximity with the world
 - Observing and imitating the world's behaviour

Council of the Ungodly

⁴Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

⁵ Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

James 4:4-5

Council of the Ungodly

¹ Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

1 John 3:1

Council of the Ungodly

24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Matthew 6:24-34

Council of the Ungodly

26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

Matthew 6:24-34

Council of the Ungodly

29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

Matthew 6:24-34

Council of the Ungodly

³²(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

³⁴ Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Matthew 6:24-34

Council of the Ungodly

¹⁰ My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

¹¹ If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:

¹² Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:

¹³ We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:

Proverbs 1:10-16

Council of the Ungodly

- 14 Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:
- 15 My son, walk not thou in the way with them;
refrain thy foot from their path:
- 16 For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed
blood.

Proverbs 1:10-16

¹ Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners,

Psalm 1:1

Standing With Sinners

- Step 2 on a downward slope
- Public passive involvement
- Silent approval
- ‘take pleasure in those who do them’
cf. **Romans 1:32**
- Why?
- To be accepted

Standing With Sinners

⁹ Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be **accepted of him.**

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10

Standing With Sinners

- You cannot stand with sinners and it not affect you!
- *'Evil company corrupts good habits'*

¹ 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.

Psalm 1:1

Sitting With the Scorers

- Public active participation
- Joining with the world in its activities
- And what do we end up scorning?
- God's Word!

Slippery Slope

- Where does this slide begin?
- The battleground of the mind
- Thus: a spiritual war (1 cor 14)
- We cannot obtain victory ourselves
- We need the power of the Spirit
- ... Given that we might be witnesses!

² But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalm 1:2

- Three positives now presented:
- Delight is in God's Law
- Meditate during the day
- Meditate at night
- Law of the LORD?

The Law of the LORD

- Law of the LORD?
- Specifically, the Torah
- Denotatively God's revelation of Himself
- By inference the Word of God

The Law of the LORD

² I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

Psalm 138:2

- God revealed Himself to Moses by His name (I AM)
- God's ultimate revelation of Himself is through His Word

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalm 1:2

- To delight:
- *'Take great pleasure in'*
- *'Extreme satisfaction'*
- Q. What do you love most in life?

God says: *'the man who is to avail himself of this blessing must have as the great love of his life My Word'*

Delight in the Law

⁹ Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

Psalm 119:9

- The Word will instruct us and help us in the way we walk
- We are to walk in the council of the Word

Delight in the Law

¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Psalm 119:11

- The Word will prevent us from standing with sinners

Delight in the Law

38 Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear.

Psalm 119:38

- The Word will engender in us Goodly fear that will prevent us sitting in the seat of the scornful

Delight in the Law

¹⁰⁵ Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalm 119:105

- Why would we not delight in such an unbelievable treasure?
- People use 'sat nav' / Google maps etc., to arrive at the correct destination
- Where we are going matters!

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalm 1:2

- Meditate?

Chewing The Cud

- According to the Law, the only animals considered 'clean' & acceptable to God were those which chewed the cud
- Regurgitate

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate **day and night.**

Psalm 1:2

- **The problem of the 'natural':**

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

1 Corinthians 2:14

Day & Night

2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Colossians 3:2

- How often?
- Day and night!
- If we don't think on the council of God...
- We will walk in the council of the ungodly

Day & Night

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

Deuteronomy 6:4-14

Day & Night

⁷ And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

⁸ And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

⁹ And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Deuteronomy 6:4-14

Day & Night

¹⁰ And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not,
¹¹ And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full;

Deuteronomy 6:4-14

Day & Night

¹² Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

¹³ Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.

¹⁴ Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you;

Deuteronomy 6:4-14

The Blessing

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.

Psalm 1:3

The Contrast

4 The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

Psalm 1:4

The Conclusion

5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

Psalm 1:5

- There is more at stake than the here and now
- This is not just about 'being blessed'
- There are eternal consequences

The Post-Script

⁶ For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Psalm 1:6

- So why would we walk in the council of the ungodly now that we have be faced with the alternative?
- Plurality of blessings indeed!



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Simply teaching the Bible, simply