

Be Thankful for Your Blessings

(By Rev. Anthony Menzel, May 2, 2021)

I have said this before, but repetition is often important so that we will really apply concepts in our lives...

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

I felt in my spirit that God wanted me to remind us to be thankful for our blessings...

***We may not have everything we want...

But if we follow the Lord Jesus, He will give us everything we need...

Philippians 4:19

¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 6:6-19

⁶ Now godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into *this* world, ^[d]and it is certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many

sorrows. ¹¹ But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and *before* Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, ¹⁴ that you keep *this* commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, ¹⁵ which He will manifest in His own time, *He who is* the blessed and only ^[e]Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom *be* honor and everlasting power. Amen.

Instructions to the Rich

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. ¹⁸ *Let them* do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, ¹⁹ storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

We can have financial goals, but achieving material wealth should never be our focus...

When God blesses us with financial prosperity, we should use our financial wealth to bring glory to the Lord Jesus...

***One point I cannot say enough is that if you have the Lord Jesus, you are a success...

You have the best blessing in the universe...

Psalm 16:5-11

O LORD, *You are* the portion of my inheritance and my cup;
You ^[b]maintain my lot.

⁶The lines have fallen to me in pleasant *places*;
Yes, I have a good inheritance.

⁷I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel;
My ^[c]heart also instructs me in the night seasons.

⁸I have set the LORD always before me;
Because *He is* at my right hand I shall not be moved.

⁹Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices;
My flesh also will ^[d]rest in hope.

¹⁰For You will not leave my soul in ^[e]Sheol,
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to ^[f]see corruption.

¹¹You will show me the path of life;
In Your presence *is* fullness of joy;
At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

To be connected to God, the Bible teaches us that we must go through God the Son, Jesus Christ...

John 14:6

⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Thus, we can only have fullness of joy when we are connected to the Lord Jesus by having a personal relationship with Him.

No matter what our circumstances may be, we can and should be in continual praise as followers of Christ...

Psalm 34:1

I will bless the LORD at all times;
His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.

Even while we seek other blessings from God, we have to remember that our main blessing is simply the Lord Jesus...

Luke 10:17-20

¹⁷ Then the ^[e]seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.”

¹⁸ And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. ²⁰ Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but ^[f]rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”

It is wonderful when we have success in ministry, but our main success is simply going to heaven to spend eternity with the Lord Jesus...

Death is just a change of address for our soul and spirit...

***God’s purpose for humanity is simply to enjoy our company...

Revelation 21:1-8

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ² Then I, ^[a]John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her

husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said ^[b]to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”

⁶ And He said to me, “It^[c] is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷ He who overcomes ^[d]shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. ⁸ But the cowardly, ^[e]unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

It astounds me how the infinite King of the Universe wants to be loved by me...

He is surrounded by multitudes of angels, and yet He wants my love, even though I am so small compared to Him...

On my worst day, I am blessed...

On my worst day, I can and should praise Him that I am going to spend eternity with Him in heaven...

Philippians 1:3-7

³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, ⁵ for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ; ⁷ just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.

God is going to complete the work He started in me...

I have to praise Him for each moment that He keeps me on the path of the Lord Jesus...

1 Corinthians 10:12-13

¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to ^[d] bear *it*.

If it were not for His grace, I would be lost...

When I see someone bound in sin, I can always say, but by the grace of God, there go I...

Please save that person, and thank You, Lord, for saving me, protecting me, and keeping me in the Your way...

***One thing that I feel that the Lord Jesus has revealed to me lately is that His power is not just for giving us provision and miracles...

He certainly does sustain us...

Job 34:14-15

If He should set His heart on it,

If He should gather to Himself His Spirit and His breath,

¹⁵ All flesh would perish together,

And man would return to dust.

The very natural laws He has instituted keep our world from falling apart...

He also can go beyond the provision He gives us through natural laws and processes to work miracles...

Matthew 19:26

²⁶ But Jesus looked at *them* and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

The revelation I recently felt from the Holy Spirit is that the Lord Jesus’ power is also for giving us the strength to get through our trials...

At times those trials may include simply staying in the path of Jesus Christ in the midst of the stresses of our daily routine...

Sometimes when the same blessing is repeated, people get bored with it...

I think that’s why some people are always seeking something new...

They don’t appreciate the blessings that they have...

Acts 17:15-21

¹⁵ So those who conducted Paul brought him to Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him with all speed, they departed.

The Philosophers at Athens

¹⁶ Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was ^[e]given over to idols. ¹⁷ Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the *Gentile* worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ ^[f]Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, “What does this ^[g]babbler want to say?”

Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods,” because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection.

¹⁹ And they took him and brought him to the ^[h]Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new doctrine *is* of which you speak? ²⁰ For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean.” ²¹ For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.

This point brings me to one of my favorite Bible passages...

Habakkuk 3:17-19

Though the fig tree may not blossom,
Nor fruit be on the vines;
Though the labor of the olive may fail,
And the fields yield no food;

Though the flock may be cut off from the fold,
And there be no herd in the stalls—

¹⁸ Yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will joy in the God of my salvation.

¹⁹ ^[d]The LORD God is my strength;
He will make my feet like deer's *feet*,
And He will make me walk on my high hills.

So we should be continually grateful not only for the Lord Jesus' provision and miracles but also for His strength to get through the trials that we face in life...

John 16:33

³³ These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you ^[f]will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”