

"Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6



Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

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Hebrews 13:5- 6

Blessings & Responsibilities of Being a Christian

Pastor Vince Fenech June 2006

Introduction

- 1. Every person has some big events in life (for example: birth, graduation, marriage, business success, first important job ,death)
- 2. But the most important event for anyone is becoming a Christian!
 - a. Why? Because it affects both you and others for ETERNITY
 - b. Unfortunately, many people become Christians and do not really appreciate it until late in life, or never.
 - c. But our service for Christ would be more productive an infinitely more enjoyable if we began to grasp the true significance of being Christians, and as such, the children of God.
- 3. This lesson is designed to encourage and instruct one to have "*a closer walk with God,*" and to be more fruitful in our service as disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

[To help motivate us in fulfilling this goal, let's summarize just a few of the blessings and responsibilities we have as Christians...]

I. God As Our Heavenly Father

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.1 Jn 3:1

Ia. Consider The Blessing Of Having God As Our Father...

1. He is the source of every good and perfect gift from above- James 1:17; Mt 7:11
2. He provides us comfort in all our afflictions - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
3. When needed, in love He chastises us - Hebrews 12:5-11
4. He has promised never to forsake us – Hebrews 13:5-6

Ib. There Are Responsibilities For Having God As Our Father

1. We must SUBMIT to God - James 4:7
 - a. By submitting to His Word
 - b. By submitting to His beneficial workings in our lives 1 Pe 5:6-11
2. We must also DRAW NEAR to God - James 4:8
 - a. Just as an earthly father delights when his children want to draw near to him, so does God - cf. Mt 23:37
 - b. We draw nearer to God by "cleansing our hands" and "purifying our hearts" - James 4:8
 - 1) That is, by obtaining forgiveness and then strengthening our resolution to serve Him.
 - 2) For the Christian, this involves

REPENTANCE, CONFESSION OF SINS, AND PRAYER –
Acts 8:22; 1 Jn 1:9

II. Jesus Christ As Our Lord And High Priest

'yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live'.

1Cor.8:6

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Heb.4:14

Ila. Think For A Moment About This Blessing...

1. He who is our "Lord" is also He who rules over the kings of the earth Rev 1:5-6
 - a. All authority in heaven and earth has been given Him. Mt 28:18
 - b. All have been made subject to Him 1 Peter 3:22
 - c. Yet, He calls us His "brethren"! - Hebrews 2:11-12
2. As "High Priest", He intercedes in our behalf –
 - a. A High Priest who understands our every feeling .
Romans 8:34
Heb.2:17-18
 - b. A High Priest who "ever lives" to make such
intercession for us. Heb. 7:24-25

IIb. What Are Our Responsibilities Of Having Jesus As Lord And High Priest?

1. If He is truly our LORD, we must do what He says –
"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?" Luke 6:46
 - a. We must be careful to observe what He taught –
Mathew 28:18-20
 - b. We must keep His commandments - Jn 15:10,14
2. We must also utilize His role as our HIGH PRIEST –
Hebrews 4:14-16
 - a. In other words, be quick to obtain mercy and find grace to help us in time of need.
 - b. Again, for the Born Again Christian this involves
PRAYER

III. The Holy Spirit Who Dwells In Us

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 1 Co 3:16

IIIa. Wonderful Blessings Are Attributed To The Holy Spirit's Indwelling...

1. He gives us strength to put to death the fleshly deeds of the body -

Rom. 8:11-13; Ep 3:16,20

2. He also helps in our weakness when it comes to praying as we ought, by acting as an intercessor for us Rom. 8:26-27

IIIb. What Responsibilities Do We Have In View Of The Spirit's Indwelling?

1. To keep the temple of God, and the church, HOLY –
1 Cor. 3:16-17
2. We are to GLORIFY God even with our bodies –
1 Cor. 6:18-20
3. We are to WALK in the Spirit, being so LED by the Spirit as to produce the FRUIT of the Spirit -
Gal 5:16-18, 22-25
 - a. This we do by setting our minds on the THINGS of the Spirit.
Rom 8:5-6
 - b. Which involves the WORD of God, which is the SWORD of the Spirit
Ephesians 6:17

IV. The Church As Our Family –

*I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*¹ Ti 3:15

IVb. The Blessing Of Having The Church As Our Family...

1. The members become like fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters -1 Tim 5:1-2

2. They can even replace physical relations we may lose when we become Christians - Mk 10:28-30; Mt 12:46-50

IVb. Responsibilities Of Having The Church As Our Family...

1. We are to "edify one another" – Heb.10:24-25
 - a. This necessitates assembling frequently
 - b. This requires each one doing their share -
Ep 4:15-16
2. We are to "bear one another's burdens" -
Galatians 6:1-2
 - a. For such is the "law" of Christ
 - b. This requires that we know each other well, and can be depended upon each other to provide support.

CONCLUSION

1. There are certainly many more blessings and responsibilities that we have as Christians
2. But I hope that these are sufficient to IMPRESS UPON US...
 - a. How blessed we are as Christians
 - b. How important it is that we fulfill our responsibilities

OR WE MAY LOSE THE BLESSINGS WE HAVE!

- Hebrews 3:12-15

Hebrews 3:12-15

3:12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

3:13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

3:14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,

3:15 while it is said:

*"Today, if you will hear His voice,
Do not harden your hearts as in the
rebellion."*