

Sunday, April 24, 2022

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Title: A Time of Blessing

Series: Journey of Faith ... 11

Purpose: I want to MOTIVATE my congregation to RECEIVE the promises of blessing through obedience to the LORD.

Introduction:

1. Our Possession:

~ Deuteronomy 11:10 - 12

~ Israel's possession was a land; resulting in a kingdom nation under God with NO slavery or want.

~ Israel's possession was to be watered by rains NOT like Egypt where they watered by irrigation. The main method of irrigation was on a treadmill. Is that the origin of saying, "the rat race?"

~ The Believer's possession – we are joint heirs with Christ Jesus!

~ Romans 8:16 – 17, *"The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, (17) and if children then heirs-heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him."* Also 1 Corinthians 12:26 (suffer)

~ Colossians 1:12 – 14, *"giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. (13) He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, (14) in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."*

~ 2 Corinthians 5:20, *"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."*

~ Ephesians 1:3, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,"*

~ Illustration: Nellie Bly, the first American woman to have great success as newspaper journalist, was given an assignment to travel on a ship that was seeking to set a world record for the circumnavigation of the earth. She did not pay her own expenses, the newspaper did!

2. Some of Our Blessings:

~ Great and vast are the blessings of God that are given to the Believer; but let us limit ourselves to the text – primarily five:

~ RAIN – essential for both growth and refreshing:

~ There are three Hebrew words used to denote the rains in the different seasons:

1. Yoreh (Hosea 6:3), or moreh (Joel 2:23) denoting the former of the early rain.

2. Melgosh, the "latter rain" (Deuteronomy 11:14)

3. Geshem, the winter rain. The heavy winter rain (Genesis 7:12; Ezra 10:9; Song of Solomon 2:11)

~ Acts 3:19 – 20, *"Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, (20) that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,"*

~ 1 John 1:7 & 9, *"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin." (9) "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

~ GRAIN – Christ Jesus the first fruits:

~ John 12:24, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."*

~ Romans 8:11, *"If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."*

~ Romans 8:29, *"For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."*

~ Romans 6:14, *"For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace."*

~ NEW WINE – symbolic of JOY:

~ Acts 2:13, *"But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine.""*

~ OIL – symbolic of the HOLY SPIRIT:

~ John 20:22, *"And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.""*

~ Ephesians 5:18, *"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,"*

~ CATTLE – provision:

~ Matthew 6:33, *"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."*

3. These Blessings are NOT Unconditional:

~ Deuteronomy 11:13

~ HEAR – Mark 4

~ OBEY – John 14:21

~ LOVE – Matthew 22:37 – 40, John 15:12

~ SERVE – Romans 12:1 – 2

4. God Gives a Solemn Warning:

~ Deuteronomy 11:16 – 17

~ 1 John 5:21, *"Little children, keep yourselves from idols."*

Conclusion: Hymn

Count Your Blessings

Johnson Oatman, Jr. and Edwin O. Escell

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When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by.

Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

When you look at others with their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings, money cannot buy
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high.

Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.