

Sunday, October 12, 2025

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

Title: Count Your Blessings;

Series: Thanksgiving 2025;

Text: Luke 10:17 - 20

Purpose: I want to MOTIVATE my congregation to reflect on the goodness of God in their life.

Introduction:

Mentoring on October 8, as part of our prayer preparations, we talked about :

~ Uganda, has a majority Christian faith, but there is a growing Muslim faith (14%); they are very hostile toward the Christian community and severely punish any who leave Islam for Christianity.

~ Rwanda, August 29 (2024), nearly 10,000 churches have been shut down. Currently Islam is the fastest growing religion in Rwanda.

~ India constitutionally guarantees religious freedom, in practice, the situation can be quite different. Rising anti-Christian sentiment fueled by nationalist groups often results in violence against Christians and attacks on churches.

~ Myanmar has as a Christian population of between 6.2% to 8%. They struggle against extreme poverty, very little conveniences (like clean water and electricity; we have groups of pastors that meet for mentoring around one cell phone and us flash lights for their lighting), Buddhism remains the fastest growing religion.

~ May we never become complacent about how blessed we are in North America!

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:17 & 18, *"pray without ceasing, (18) give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

~ Luke 10:17 – 20, *"The seventy-two 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 have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. (20) Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."*

1. Your Name is Written Down:

~ Philippians 4:3 – 4, *"Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. (4) Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice."*

~ Hebrews 12:23 – 24, *"and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, (24) and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel."*

~ Revelation 13:1 – 10 (read)

~ Revelation 20:11 – 15 (read)

~ Revelation 21:27, *"But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life."*

~ Hymn – There is a New Name Written Down

2. You Have Power Over Sin and Death:

~ Romans 8:1 – 11 (read)

~ Romans 6:1 – 11 (read)

3. You Will Not be Separated From Christ:

~ Matthew 28:20, *"teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

~ Romans 8:31 – 39 (read)

4. You Are Not Appointed to Wrath:

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:9, *"For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,"*

~ 1 Thessalonians 1:9 – 10, *"For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, (10) and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."*

~ 1 Peter 2:9 – 10, *"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (10) Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."*

Conclusion:

Hymn – Count Your Blessings