

## “BLESSED IS THE MAN”

By Eddie Gilpin, Elder/Preacher

The phrase “blessed is the man” is found thirteen times in the King James Bible. “Man” is generic for all humanity and includes in its promise all who fulfill the obligations or possess the qualities mentioned. Previously we studied Psalm 1:1, 32:2, 34:8, 65:4, 84:5, 84:12, Jeremiah 17:7 and Romans 4:8. “Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O Lord, and teachest him out of thy law” (Ps. 94:12). Chastening from the Lord comes through His word, through His providence and through His people. Solomon referred to God’s chastening thus: “My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth” (Prov. 3:11, 12). The Hebrews writer quoted from the wise man and spoke at length of the Lord’s chastening (Heb. 12:5-13). His conclusion that a blessing awaits those who see correction for what it is, was the same as the Psalmist’s: “Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby” (Heb. 12:11). Like the steady, correcting hand of a wise father toward his child, the loving, guiding, disciplining hand of God will lead us into the ways of holiness (Heb. 12:9, 10). “Praise ye the Lord. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord that delighteth greatly in his commandments” (Ps. 112:1). The fear of God and the keeping of His commandments are, interestingly enough, the matters Solomon concluded as being the purpose of man’s existence (Eccl. 12:13). The proper reverence for God will lead one to obey Him. Obedience is the key to inheriting eternal life (Luke 6:46; John 14:15; Heb. 5:8, 9). Are you among those classified as being blessed by God because of your faithfulness to Him (Rev. 2:10)?

“**Blessed is the man** that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors” (Prov. 8:34). As is so often the case, wisdom is personified in this proverb. Wisdom is presented as speaking for herself. She pronounces as blessed the man who hears, watches for and waits upon her. The wisdom under consideration is heavenly, godly wisdom and not the wisdom of the world (cf. 1 Cor. 1:18-21; 3:19). The kind of wisdom that provides this kind of blessing comes only from the Lord (Prov. 2:6).

“**Blessed is the man** that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil” (Is. 56:2). The subjects under consideration as this verse opens are keeping judgment and doing justice (vs. 1). The man is proclaimed as blessed who so does. He “keepeth the Sabbath,” a representation of doing all that God commands of him. (Keep in mind that Isaiah’s words were penned when the Sabbath was still binding upon men.) “Doing justice” represents all that is involved in being right with his fellow man. Thus, just as Jesus said in His summation of God’s law (Mt. 22:35-40), loving God and loving our fellow man encompass man’s duty.

“**Blessed is the man** that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him” (Jas. 1:12). Our final thought concerning this phrase reveals that a man is blessed who endures temptation. Temptation itself is not sinful. Even Jesus was tempted (Mt. 4:1-11; Heb. 4:15). It is when one succumbs to temptation that sin results (Jas. 1:14, 15). Those things that tempt and try us serve to make us stronger if we are able to withstand them. Are you a “blessed man” having these qualities in your life? Endure!

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