

Blessings and Responsibilities

Introduction

1. Being a member of a physical family brings blessings but it also requires certain responsibilities.
 - a. Blessings of a physical family.
 - 1) The love and care of parents.
 - 2) The daily necessities of life.
 - 3) Protection from dangers and disease.
 - 4) The blessing of a good name.
 - b. Responsibilities to a physical family.
 - 1) Obey parents. (Eph. 6:1; Col. 3:20; Luke 2:51)
 - 2) Provide for your own. (1 Tim. 5:8)
 - 3) "Repay" your parents. (1 Tim. 5:4)
 - 4) Bring children up in the training and admonition of the Lord. (Eph. 6:4)
2. A Christian is a part of God's family. (1 Tim. 3:15; Gal. 3:26-27)
 - a. Being a child of God and a joint-heir with Christ brings great blessings.
 - b. Being a child of God also carries with it certain responsibilities as well.
3. This lesson will consider both the blessings and responsibilities of being a child of God.

I. The Blessings

A. Having God as one's Father.

1. When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He had them address the prayer to "Our Father." (Matt. 6:9)
2. 1 John 3:1-2 states that Christians are children of God.
3. God is Father to those who are:
 - a. Separate from the world. (2 Cor. 6:14-18; 1 John 2:15-17; Jas. 4:4)
 - b. Led by the Spirit. (Rom. 8:14)

B. Wearing the greatest name.

1. It is the name of Christ. (Phil. 2:9-10)
2. His disciples are to wear the name of Christ. (Acts 11:26) Wearing the name of Christ:
 - a. Speaks of their salvation. (Acts 4:12)
 - b. Tells that they belong to Him. (1 Cor. 6:20; 1 Pet. 1:17-19)
3. One must be baptized "in His name" in order to rightfully wear His name. (1 Cor. 1:10-14)

- C. Enjoying the protection of God.
 - 1. The child of God does not have to fear others. (1 Pet. 3:13-14)
 - 2. Even if a child of God has to suffer, he is blessed. (Matt. 5:10-12)
 - 3. Jesus gives assurance of the Father's watchful protection. (Matt. 10:27-31)
- D. Receiving the proper spiritual provisions. The child of God receives:
 - 1. Water unto eternal life. (John 4:10-14)
 - 2. The bread of life. (John 6:51; Acts 20:32)
- E. Enjoying the promises of God.
 - 1. Those of the faith have been given great and precious promises. (2 Pet. 1:1-4)
 - 2. These promises are sure. (2 Pet. 3:9)
 - 3. These promises include:
 - a. Remission of past sins. (Acts 2:38)
 - b. Access through prayer. (1 John 2:1-2)
 - c. Eternal life. (Titus 1:1-2)

II. The Responsibilities

- A. Respecting the authority of God.
 - 1. Consider the command God gave to the children of Israel under the Old Law in Exodus 20:3-4.
 - 2. Similar principles and commands to honor the authority of God are given to the children of God today.
 - a. Worship and serve God alone. (Matt. 4:10)
 - b. Since Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth (Matt. 28:18), all should be done in His name. (Col. 3:17)
- B. Defending the cause of God.
 - 1. The Christian must be set for "the defense of the gospel." (Phil. 1:17)
 - 2. The child of God must put on the whole armor of God. (Eph. 6:10-17)
 - 3. Christ's disciple must not be ashamed of the word. (Rom. 1:16)
 - 4. The Christian must be willing to wage warfare (2 Cor. 10:1-6)
- C. Learning the will of God.
 - 1. God's child must put forth diligent effort to be approved before Him. (2 Tim. 2:15)
 - 2. One must be filling himself with the word of God. (Col. 3:16)
 - 3. One must be longing for spiritual nourishment. (1 Pet. 2:1-2)
 - 4. One must be hungering and thirsting for righteousness. (Matt. 5:6)
- D. Obeying the commands of God.
 - 1. Consider the teachings of 1 John 5:1-3.
 - 2. Keeping God's commandments expresses:
 - a. One's love for God and Christ. (John 14:15)
 - b. One's faith in the word and promises of God. (Jas. 2:18)

Conclusion

1. As children of God, we should not expect to enjoy the blessings of being in the family of God without shouldering the responsibilities.
2. May each of us determine to be a responsible member of the family of God