

# 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