

God's Blessing Upon His People

"Thy blessing is upon thy people." – Psalm 3:8

Summary:

God has a people who may be recognised by the character Scripture gives them: they worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and place no confidence in the flesh. Though they may lack worldly greatness and face many enemies, God's blessing rests upon every part of their lives. It sanctifies their mercies, makes their trials fruitful, prospers their labours, watches over their families, and enriches their souls with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Believers should therefore rejoice and give thanks, remembering that this blessing springs from free grace, comes through the Lord Jesus, and is secured by God's promise and oath. It is enjoyed through the means God provides and in obedience to his will. Each soul should earnestly seek a share in the favour God bears toward his people.

Outline:

1. **God has an identifiable people**
 - Scripture describes them as those who worship by the Spirit, rejoice in Christ, and renounce confidence in the flesh.
2. **God blesses their mercies and trials**
 - His favour sweetens ordinary comforts and makes affliction yield the peaceful fruit of righteousness.
3. **God blesses their labours and families**
 - Fruitful work, daily provision, and household good all depend upon the Lord's gracious hand.
4. **God blesses their souls**
 - In Christ they receive light, liberty, strength, peace, joy, and every spiritual blessing.
5. **God's blessing must be sought and enjoyed**
 - It flows from free grace through Christ, rests on God's promise, and is enjoyed through obedience and appointed means.

Text

God has a people, and we need not search heaven or examine His decrees to know them. The Bible is our book of life, recording the heirs of glory by character, if not by name. As the Apostle says, “we are the circumcision,” who “worship God in the spirit—and rejoice in Christ Jesus—and have no confidence in the flesh.” Let Scripture judge us, and seek to know whether we belong to God’s people—the most blessed and enviable on earth. Though they lack worldly distinction and face many enemies, God’s blessing rests upon them.

- **Upon their mercies.** This takes the curse away from them and gives them a relish that others’ comforts never provide. “I will bless thy bread and thy water.”
- **Upon their trials.** They need a blessing upon their daily rod as much as upon their daily bread. Without this blessing, our afflictions will do us no good; indeed, they will harm us, leaving us more careless and impenitent. But with his blessing, they will lead to our salvation and yield the peaceable fruits of righteousness to those who are exercised by them.
- **Upon their labours.** “Thou shalt eat the labour of thy hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.” Without this, we rise early, sit up late, and eat sorrow’s bread in vain; He gives His beloved sleep. Sowing is fruitless without His increase; our harvest worthless if He blows upon it; and gains futile if we “put it into a bag with holes.” “The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.”
- **Upon their families.** The house of Obed-edom was publicly blessed for the ark’s sake. As David says, “I have been young,” says David, “and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.” The upright generation shall be blessed.
- **Upon their souls.** Thus they are blessed with light, liberty, strength, peace, and joy—indeed, with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ.

O Christian, is this your experience and portion? Rejoice and give thanks. What compares with God’s blessing? Remember: it comes from his free, boundless grace through the Lord Jesus, the way from God to us and from us to God.

Remember, it rests on the truth of his promise and oath. You may remind him of his commitment and plead, as Jacob did, "And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good."

Remember also to enjoy it through the use of means and obedience to his will. "Blessed are they that do judgment, and keep his commandments at all times." O my soul, claim a share: "Bless me, even me also, O my Father." "Remember me, O Lord, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me with thy salvation; that I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thine inheritance."

This sermon is taken from William Jay's devotional, Morning and Evening Exercises (January 24, Morning), first published in 1854.