

Message Twelve

Life and Blessing under the Government of God

JL Hymns: 12, 796 (tune of 495)

Scripture Reading: Deut. 30:15-20; Psa. 36:9a; 133:1, 3; Ezek. 34:26; Eph. 1:3

- Deut 30:15 See, I have put before you today life and good, and death and evil.
- Deut 30:16 If you obey the commandments of Jehovah your God, which I am commanding you today, to love Jehovah your God and walk in His ways and keep His commandments and His statutes and His ordinances, then you will live and multiply, and Jehovah your God will bless you in the land which you are entering to possess.
- Deut 30:17 But if your heart turns and you do not listen, but rather you are drawn away in worship to other gods and serve them,
- Deut 30:18 I declare to you today that you shall surely perish; your days will not be extended upon the land into which you are crossing over the Jordan to go and possess.
- Deut 30:19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today: I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life that you and your seed may live,
- Deut 30:20 In loving Jehovah your God by listening to His voice and holding fast to Him; for He is your life and the length of your days, that you may dwell upon the land which Jehovah swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.
- Psa 36:9a For with You is the fountain of life; ...
- Psa 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is / For brothers to dwell in unity!
- Psa 133:3 Like the dew of Hermon / That came down upon the mountains of Zion. / For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: / Life forever.
- Ezek 34:26 And I will make them and the places around My hill a blessing, and I will cause the showers to come down in their season; there will be showers of blessing.
- Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,

I. In order to extend their days in the good land, the children of Israel were required to live under the government of God, doing all that God had commanded them through Moses—Deut. 30:15-20; 3:23-28; 4:1-24.

- Deut 30:15 See, I have put before you today life and good, and death and evil.
- Deut 30:16 If you obey the commandments of Jehovah your God, which I am commanding you today, to love Jehovah your God and walk in His ways and keep His commandments and His statutes and His ordinances, then you will live and multiply, and Jehovah your God will bless you in the land which you are entering to possess.
- Deut 30:17 But if your heart turns and you do not listen, but rather you are drawn away in worship to other gods and serve them,
- Deut 30:18 I declare to you today that you shall surely perish; your days will not be extended upon the land into which you are crossing over the Jordan to go and possess.
- Deut 30:19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today: I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life that you and your seed may live,
- Deut 30:20 In loving Jehovah your God by listening to His voice and holding fast to Him; for He is your life and the length of your days, that you may dwell upon the land which Jehovah swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.
- Deut 3:23 And I pleaded with Jehovah at that time, saying,
- Deut 3:24 O Lord Jehovah, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do things like what You have done and things like Your mighty deeds?
- Deut 3:25 Let me please cross over and see the good land that is across the Jordan, this fine hill country and Lebanon.
- Deut 3:26 But Jehovah was infuriated with me on your account and did not listen to me. And Jehovah said to me, Enough! Speak no more to Me about this matter.
- Deut 3:27 Go up to the top of Pisgah; and lift up your eyes to the west and to the north and to the south and to the east; and see it with your eyes, for you shall not cross over this Jordan.
- Deut 3:28 But charge Joshua, and strengthen and encourage him, for it is he who will cross over before this people and cause them to inherit the land which you will see.
- Deut 4:1 And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the ordinances which I am teaching you to do,

- in order that you may live and go in and possess the land which Jehovah, the God of your fathers, is giving you.
- Deut 4:2 You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor shall you take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of Jehovah your God, which I am commanding you.
- Deut 4:3 Yours are the eyes that have seen that which Jehovah has done in Baal-peor; for all the men who went after Baal-peor, Jehovah your God has destroyed from your midst.
- Deut 4:4 But you who joined yourselves to Jehovah your God are alive, all of you, today.
- Deut 4:5 See, I have taught you statutes and ordinances, as Jehovah my God commanded me, so that you would do them within the land which you are going in to possess.
- Deut 4:6 Keep and do them therefore; for this will be your wisdom and prudence in the sight of the peoples who hear all these statutes and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and prudent people.
- Deut 4:7 For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as Jehovah our God is whenever we call upon Him?
- Deut 4:8 And what great nation is there that has statutes and ordinances so righteous as all this law which I am setting before you today?
- Deut 4:9 But be careful and guard your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; rather, make them known to your children and to your grandchildren.
- Deut 4:10 Especially do not forget the day when you stood before Jehovah your God at Horeb, when Jehovah said to me, Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, so that they may learn to fear Me all the days that they live upon the earth and may teach their children as much.
- Deut 4:11 And you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain; and the mountain was burning with fire up into the heart of heaven, with darkness, cloud, and deep darkness there .
- Deut 4:12 And Jehovah spoke to you from the midst of the fire. The sound of words could you hear, but no form could you see; there was only a voice.
- Deut 4:13 And He declared to you His covenant, which He commanded you to do, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them upon two tablets of stone.
- Deut 4:14 And Jehovah commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and ordinances for you to do in the land which you are about to cross over into to possess.
- Deut 4:15 So take careful heed to your souls, for you did not see any form at all on the day when Jehovah spoke to you at Horeb from the midst of the fire,
- Deut 4:16 So that you do not spoil yourselves and make for yourselves an idol, a form of any image, a figure of male or female,
- Deut 4:17 A figure of any animal which is on the earth, a figure of any winged bird which flies in the sky,
- Deut 4:18 A figure of anything that crawls on the ground, a figure of any fish that is in the water under the earth;
- Deut 4:19 And take heed that, when you lift up your eyes to the sky and see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you are not drawn away in worship to them and that you do not serve them, which Jehovah your God has assigned to all the peoples under all heaven.
- Deut 4:20 But Jehovah has taken you and brought you forth from the iron furnace, from Egypt, that you would be to Him a people for His inheritance, as you are this day.
- Deut 4:21 But Jehovah was angry with me on your account and swore that I would not cross over the Jordan and that I would not enter the good land which Jehovah your God is giving you as an inheritance.
- Deut 4:22 For I am to die in this land; I am not to cross over the Jordan. But you are crossing over and you will possess this good land.
- Deut 4:23 Take heed to yourselves that you do not forget the covenant of Jehovah your God, which He has made with you, and make for yourselves an idol, the form of anything, which Jehovah your God has forbidden you to make .
- Deut 4:24 For Jehovah your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

II. Moses set before the children of Israel life and death and charged them to choose life—30:15, 19-20:

- Deut 30:15 See, I have put before you today life and good, and death and evil.
- Deut 30:19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today: I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life that you and your seed may live,

- Deut 30:20 In loving Jehovah your God by listening to His voice and holding fast to Him; for He is your life and the length of your days, that you may dwell upon the land which Jehovah swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.
- A. With God is the fountain of life—Psa. 36:9a:
Psa 36:9a For with You is the fountain of life; ...
1. God wants us to take Him as the fountain, the source, of our life and our being—v. 9a.
Psa 36:9a For with You is the fountain of life;...
 2. The divine life may be considered the first and the basic attribute of God—Eph. 4:18; John 5:26; 1 John 5:11-12; Rom. 8:2:
Eph 4:18 Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;
John 5:26 For just as the Father has life in Himself, so He gave to the Son to also have life in Himself;
1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.
1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.
Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
- a. According to the divine and eternal nature of the life of God, God’s life is the unique life; only the life of God can be counted as life—John 1:4; 10:10b; 11:25; 14:6.
John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
John 10:10b ... I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.
John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;
John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
 - b. Life is the content of God and the flowing out of God; God’s content is God’s being, and God’s flowing out is the impartation of Himself as life to us—Eph. 4:18; Rev. 22:1.
Eph 4:18 Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;
Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.
 - c. Life is the Triune God dispensed into us and living in us—Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11.
Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
- B. In Genesis 2:9, 16-17 we see two choices before man—the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil:
Gen 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
Gen 2:16 And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely,
Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

1. The tree of life signifies the Triune God embodied in Christ as life to man in the form of food—v. 9; Rev. 2:7; John 1:4; 14:6a; 10:10b; 6:35, 57, 63.
 - Gen 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
 - Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.
 - John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
 - John 14:6a Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; ...
 - John 10:10b ... I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.
 - John 6:35 Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall by no means hunger, and he who believes into Me shall by no means ever thirst.
 - John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
 - John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.
2. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil signifies Satan as the source of death—Heb. 2:14.
 - Heb 2:14 Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,
3. The tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil represent two principles of living—the principle of life (dependence on God) and the principle of right and wrong (independence from God)—Gen. 2:9, 16-17; 4:3-4; Jer. 17:5; John 15:5.
 - Gen 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
 - Gen 2:16 And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely,
 - Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.
 - Gen 4:3 And in the course of time Cain brought an offering to Jehovah from the fruit of the ground.
 - Gen 4:4 And Abel also brought an offering, from the firstlings of his flock, that is, from their fat portions. And Jehovah had regard for Abel and for his offering.
 - Jer 17:5 Thus says Jehovah, / Cursed is the man who trusts in man / And makes flesh his arm / And whose heart turns away from Jehovah.
 - John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.
4. These two trees are working within us as two principles of living.
5. The Gospel of John reveals that the tree of life is versus the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—4:10-14, 20-21, 23-24; 9:1-3; 11:20-27.
 - John 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the gift of God and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.
 - John 4:11 The woman said to Him, Sir, You have no bucket, and the well is deep; where then do You get this living water?
 - John 4:12 Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank of it himself, as well as his sons and his cattle?
 - John 4:13 Jesus answered and said to her, Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again,
 - John 4:14 But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water springing up into eternal life.
 - John 4:20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain, yet you say that in Jerusalem is the place where men must worship.

- John 4:21 Jesus said to her, Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.
- John 4:23 But an hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him.
- John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.
- John 9:1 And as He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth.
- John 9:2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?
- John 9:3 Jesus answered, Neither has this man sinned nor his parents, but he was born so, that the works of God might be manifested in him.
- John 11:20 Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him; but Mary sat in the house.
- John 11:21 Then Martha said to Jesus, Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.
- John 11:22 But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.
- John 11:23 Jesus said to her, Your brother will rise again.
- John 11:24 Martha said to Him, I know that he will rise again in the resurrection in the last day.
- John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;
- John 11:26 And everyone who lives and believes into Me shall by no means die forever. Do you believe this?
- John 11:27 She said to Him, Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, He who comes into the world.

6. In our Christian life and church life, we should discern matters not according to right and wrong but according to life and death—2 Cor. 11:3; Gen. 2:9, 16-17.

- 2 Cor 11:3 But I fear lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your thoughts would be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity toward Christ.
- Gen 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- Gen 2:16 And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely,
- Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

C. By the resurrection life of Christ in our spirit, we can be victorious over the attack of death upon the church—Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:24; 2 Tim. 1:10:

- Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- Acts 2:24 Whom God has raised up, having loosed the pangs of death, since it was not possible for Him to be held by it.
- 2 Tim 1:10 But now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who nullified death and brought life and incorruption to light through the gospel,

1. Death is the characteristic of Satan's work; the ultimate goal of his work is to saturate man with death—Heb. 2:14-15.

- Heb 2:14 Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,
- Heb 2:15 And might release those who because of the fear of death through all their life were held in slavery.

2. Matthew 16:18 shows us from what source the attack upon the church will come—"the gates of Hades," that is, death:

- Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- a. Satan's special object is to spread death within the church, and his greatest fear with regard to the church is her resistance to his power of death—Rev. 2:8, 10-11.
- Rev 2:8 And to the messenger of the church in Smyrna write: These things says the First and the Last, who became dead and lived again:

- Rev 2:10 Do not fear the things that you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison that you may be tried, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.
- Rev 2:11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall by no means be hurt of the second death.
- b. The church that is built upon “this rock” can discern between death and life, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against the church—Matt. 16:18.
- Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
3. If we would overcome the attack of death, we need to know Christ as the First and the Last and the living One—the One who became dead and lived again and the One who has the keys of death and of Hades—Rev. 1:17-18; 2:8.
- Rev 1:17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead; and He placed His right hand on me, saying, Do not fear; I am the First and the Last
- Rev 1:18 And the living One; and I became dead, and behold, I am living forever and ever; and I have the keys of death and of Hades.
- Rev 2:8 And to the messenger of the church in Smyrna write: These things says the First and the Last, who became dead and lived again:

III. Moses set before the children of Israel blessing and curse—Deut. 30:19:

- Deut 30:19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today: I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life that you and your seed may live,
- A. In Genesis 1:26-28 God blessed man to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it, because God saw on earth a living creature bearing His image and having His dominion.
- Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
- Gen 1:27 And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- Gen 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.
- B. In order to be a blessing to His chosen people, God must have a kingdom, a realm, a sphere, on earth to exercise His administration under His full, divine authority—Matt. 6:10; Col. 1:13:
- Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.
- Col 1:13 Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,
- Without such a kingdom, God does not have a realm in which to accomplish His purpose.
 - Once there is a kingdom, the kingdom becomes the realm, the sphere, for God to exercise Himself to bless us—Rev. 11:15.
- Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.
- We all want to receive blessing, but we may not realize that the blessing requires a sphere of God’s authority, a sphere under God’s administration.
- C. God “has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ”—Eph. 1:3:
- Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,
- God has blessed us with His speaking; all the speaking in verses 4 through 14 is God’s blessing.
- Eph 1:4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,

- Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
- Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He graced us in the Beloved;
- Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of His grace,
- Eph 1:8 Which He caused to abound to us in all wisdom and prudence,
- Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
- Eph 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;
- Eph 1:11 In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
- Eph 1:12 That we would be to the praise of His glory who have first hoped in Christ,
- Eph 1:13 In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,
- Eph 1:14 Who is the pledge of our inheritance unto the redemption of the acquired possession, to the praise of His glory.
2. *Every* indicates the all-inclusiveness of God’s blessings.
3. *Spiritual* indicates the relationship of God’s blessings to the Holy Spirit:
- a. All the blessings with which God has blessed us are related to the Holy Spirit.
- b. The Spirit of God is not only the channel but also the reality of God’s blessings.
- c. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit are all related to the blessings bestowed upon us—vv. 4-14; 3:16-17; 4:4-6.
- Eph 1:4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,
- Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
- Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He graced us in the Beloved;
- Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of His grace,
- Eph 1:8 Which He caused to abound to us in all wisdom and prudence,
- Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
- Eph 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;
- Eph 1:11 In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
- Eph 1:12 That we would be to the praise of His glory who have first hoped in Christ,
- Eph 1:13 In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,
- Eph 1:14 Who is the pledge of our inheritance unto the redemption of the acquired possession, to the praise of His glory.
- Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
- Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
- Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;
- Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
- d. God’s blessing is mainly the dispensing of the Triune God into us—2 Cor. 13:14.
- 2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the

fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

4. *Heavenlies* indicates not only the heavenly place but also the heavenly nature, state, characteristic, and atmosphere of the spiritual blessings with which God has blessed us:
 - a. These blessings are from the heavens, having a heavenly nature, heavenly state, heavenly characteristic, and heavenly atmosphere.
 - b. The believers in Christ are enjoying on earth these blessings, which are spiritual as well as heavenly.
 5. *In Christ* indicates that Christ is the virtue, the instrument, and the sphere in which God has blessed us:
 - a. In Christ God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies.
 - b. We praise the Lord that we are in Christ, who is the virtue, the instrument, the sphere, and the channel in which we have been blessed.
 6. Since the nature of these blessings is spiritual, we need to exercise our spirit to realize, experience, and partake of them in our spirit—Rom. 8:4.
Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.
- D. God's blessing is intrinsically related to oneness—Psa. 133:1, 3:
Psa 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is / For brothers to dwell in unity!
Psa 133:3 Like the dew of Hermon / That came down upon the mountains of Zion. / For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: / Life forever.
1. The unity spoken of in verse 1 is a picture of the genuine oneness in the New Testament; this oneness is the processed and consummated Triune God mingled with the believers in Christ—John 17:21-23.
Psa 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is / For brothers to dwell in unity!
John 17:21 That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You have sent Me.
John 17:22 And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one;
John 17:23 I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.
 2. *There* in Psalm 133:3 refers to the oneness upon which the Lord commands the blessing—life forever.
Psa 133:3 Like the dew of Hermon / That came down upon the mountains of Zion. / For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: / Life forever.
- E. Through His shepherding in His recovery by life, the Lord brings us into the enjoyment of His blessing and causes us to become a source of blessing under the showers of blessing—Ezek. 34:23, 26-27a, 29; Zech. 10:1:
Ezek 34:23 And I will set up over them one Shepherd, My Servant David, and He will feed them; He will feed them, and He will be their Shepherd.
Ezek 34:26 And I will make them and the places around My hill a blessing, and I will cause the showers to come down in their season; there will be showers of blessing.
Ezek 34:27a And the trees of the field will yield their fruit, and the earth will yield its increase, and they will be secure in their land; ...
Ezek 34:29 And I will raise up for them a planting place of renown, and they will no longer be consumed with famine in the land and no longer bear the disgrace of the nations.
Zech 10:1 Ask rain of Jehovah / At the time of spring rain, / Of Jehovah who makes the lightning, / And He will give them showers of rain, / To everyone herbage in the field.
1. First, we ourselves enjoy the Lord's blessing, and then the Lord will cause us to become a source of blessing to others so that they may be supplied—Ezek. 34:26.
Ezek 34:26 And I will make them and the places around My hill a blessing, and I will cause the showers to come down in their season; there will be showers of blessing.

2. God will cause the showers of blessing to come down in season—Zech. 10:1.
 Zech 10:1 Ask rain of Jehovah / At the time of spring rain, / Of Jehovah who makes the lightning, / And He will give them showers of rain, / To everyone herbage in the field.
- F. The greatest blessing that we receive from the Lord is not what the Lord gives us; it is what the Lord makes us, what He enables us to become—Rev. 3:12:
- Rev 3:12 He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.
1. The Lord's promise in Revelation 3:12 is to make the overcomer a pillar in the temple of God:

Rev 3:12 He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

 - a. Becoming a pillar in the temple of God involves transformation and building—21:22; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 2:21-22; 4:16.

Rev 21:22 And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;

Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
 - b. It is a great blessing for the Lord to transform us and build us into His temple; this involves our being, what we are in Christ—Col. 1:27-28.

Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,

Col 1:28 Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ;
 2. If we see this vision, we will realize that in the church life the Lord's intention is not to do something outside of us but to transform us into another kind of being for His corporate expression—Rev. 21:10-11.

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.
 3. In the church life we should not expect outward blessings; rather, it is crucial for us to realize that the Lord's blessing is to transform us into precious material and then build us into His dwelling place—Eph. 2:21-22.

Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;

Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.
- G. The normal life of a Christian is a life of blessing, and the normal work of a Christian is a work of blessing—Num. 6:23-27; Matt. 5:3-11; 24:46; John 20:29; Gal. 3:14; 2 Cor. 9:6; Rom. 15:29.
- Num 6:23 Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the children of Israel;

- you shall say to them,
- Num 6:24 Jehovah bless you and keep you;
- Num 6:25 Jehovah make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
- Num 6:26 Jehovah lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
- Num 6:27 So shall they put My name upon the children of Israel, that I Myself may bless them.
- Matt 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.
- Matt 5:4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
- Matt 5:5 Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
- Matt 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- Matt 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy.
- Matt 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
- Matt 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.
- Matt 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.
- Matt 5:11 Blessed are you when they reproach and persecute you, and while speaking lies, say every evil thing against you because of Me.
- Matt 24:46 Blessed is that slave whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.
- John 20:29 Jesus said to him, Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.
- Gal 3:14 In order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.
- 2 Cor 9:6 But take note of this: He who sows sparingly shall also sparingly reap; and he who sows with blessings shall also with blessings reap;
- Rom 15:29 And I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.
- H. We must realize that in our work, in our Christian life, and in our church life, everything depends on the Lord's blessing—Eph. 1:3; Mal. 3:10.
- Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,
- Mal 3:10 Bring the whole tithe to the storehouse that there may be food in My house; and prove Me, if you will, by this, says Jehovah of hosts, whether I will open to you the windows of heaven and pour out blessing for you until there is no room for it.
- I. We need to pray, "Lord, please give us a vision that we may see the meaning of Your blessing, and have mercy on us that, unhindered, we may be able to receive Your blessing."