



## Are We Blessed?

By DeLunte Lewis



*There is something else meaningless that occurs on earth: the righteous who get what the wicked deserve, and the wicked who get what the righteous deserve.*

Ecclesiastes 8:14

Have we had it wrong all along? What is the measure of a blessing? What does it mean to be blessed? If we cannot determine who is righteous and unrighteous by way of appearance or possession, then how are we to know?

If you look up the word *blessing*, you'll find it is synonymous with terms such as "protection" and "favor." But what happens when we dive a bit deeper? If the righteous receive what the unrighteous ought to have and the unrighteous are reaping the benefits of what the righteous ought to have, then is it possible our ideas about what it means to be blessed are incorrect.

Many, when seeking to provide an explanation as to why they consider themselves blessed, point emphatically in the direction of some sort of material possession: house, car, spouse. Yet these are experienced by both the righteous and the unrighteous, some would say, a matter of mere circumstance.

Could it be that being blessed is less about what we receive and more about what we give?

Our model for the Christian life is Jesus; He neither experienced the abundance of excessive living nor encouraged others to seek a life akin to such pursuits. He was homeless and betrayed by those closest to Him. He experienced jealousy and envy from those He was sent to save, was wrongfully accused of a crime he did not commit, and ultimately crucified. Yet we call Him blessed.

If I can push past my desire to be rewarded for the "good" that I do (to be "blessed"), then what I offer to God and others may find itself materializing within a context absent of condition; that no matter what the circumstance, be it death, anxiety or fear over what the future holds, or the ridicule of public opinion, I will remain faithful to God...and that is something only the righteous can claim.

I am blessed... truly blessed, when I find myself seeking after God without pretense or expectation, simply wanting no more than to be in His presence; stripping away selfish craving and personal desire, soberly surrendering to the reign and will of Almighty God.

The mind should quake and the heart shutter at the eminence of the blessing of merely belonging to God.