

The Righteous Bless And Are Blessed

1 Peter 3:8-12

Main point: The gospel calls the **righteous** to **bless** and be blessed

1. BLESSING PROMISED FOR THE RIGHT ATTITUDE

2. BLESSING PROMISED FOR RIGHT RESPONSES

There is both future heavenly reward as well as present blessing resulting from right attitudes and responses

Peter has already mentioned several examples of blessing in this life which are promised to those who have righteous conduct

<u>Right Conduct</u>	<u>Resulting blessing in this life</u>
1:8 – Loving Christ	Unutterable joy
1:9 – Continuing faith	More benefits of salvation
1:17 – Holy life with fear	Avoiding God’s Fatherly discipline
2:2 – Partaking of spiritual milk	Growing up towards salvation
2:19-20 – Trusting God and doing right while suffering	God’s approval
3:1-2 – Submitting to husbands	Husbands won for Christ
3:7 – Living considerately with Wives	prayers not hindered
4:14 – Enduring reproach for Christ	Spirit of glory and of God rest upon us
5:7 – Casting cares on God needs	(Implied) He will care for your
5:9-10 – Resist the Devil strengthen you	God will restore, establish and

A note of Caution:

The blessing in this life does NOT include freedom from suffering and opposition

This text as a whole should not be taken as evidence for final salvation BY good works... because this text is addressed to the already saved

Good works must be seen here as an evidence that one is truly a believer

We are not promoting works righteousness here

If anything it is saying... live amazed at what Christ has done for you and let your attitude and your responses even in the midst of persecution and suffering, reflect HIM

Don't be careless and half-hearted but rather realize who's kingdom you belong to and who is your King... then live your life in a manner worthy of your King. REPRESENT YOUR KING WELL

In closing a couple points of application:

1. Get near the cross. Why?
So that your attitudes and responses will be a blessing to others

Recall the goodness of God poured out upon you without measure
Undeserving and yet poured out RICHLY and in ABUNDANCE

How do we get near?
By surveying the wondrous cross on which the prince of glory died
Read the gospel accounts of Jesus going to the cross
Read John Stott "Cross of Christ"
Study the love of God
Take time to be amazed at his grace and kindness towards you

2. Repent of wrong attitudes and wrong responses
Are there those you have repaid with evil or reviled?
As you have found yourself being squeezed by the circumstances of life... has your actions made a bold statement which Kingdom you are apart of?
Some of you may need to go and repent/make things right with those you have sinned against