

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

Billy Bland

It is easy for one to look on the dark and negative side of life and forget to think about all the good things of life. The song "**Count Your Blessings**" exhorts us to think about all the blessings that God has given us "and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done."

"Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's" (Psalm 103:1-5).

We are blessed in many, many ways. How many people are in poor health in countries because they do not have the medicines and technology available to them. What if we had to take one of our loved ones to a doctor only to learn that the needed medication is not available. Truly, we are blessed. Again think of the opportunities with which we are blessed. There are all types of educational and job opportunities open to us and our children. All these basically have been handed to us.

Think of the spiritual opportunities that are ours. We are privileged to go to worship service several times a week and meet in a nice dry building. We are privileged to study under someone who has diligently studied the Bible probably for years. Yet in some countries many congregations have to rent a place for an hour or so a week and do not have the teachers and/or resources that is available to many.

However, there can be a danger in our blessings. In the long ago, God warned Israel; "And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage" (Deuteronomy 6:10-12). We too need to beware lest we forget God.

Indeed, we have been blessed. The greatest blessing of all is Jesus Christ. He is greater than any material blessing. If you haven't availed yourself of the blessing of forgiveness in Christ, why not do so today. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16).