



F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

❖ NOVEMBER 2018 ❖

Counting Your Blessings



"... not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

Luke 12:15

What counts in life is not things, but relationships: Family and friends with whom we share life experiences; fellow Christians with whom we share a common faith; Our Lord Jesus Christ with whom we share a spiritual bond.

Be thankful for what really counts!

Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

Hebrews 13:15

*"If you know these things, you **are** blessed if you do them."*

John 13:17

WHO ARE BLESSED?

BLESSED

are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.

are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.

are the merciful,
for they shall receive mercy.

are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.

are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.

are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Matthew 5:3-11



**To be blessed is found in doing,
not in having or possessing things!**

Do the **RIGHT THING** (what's commanded)
in the **RIGHT WAY** (as directed)
for the **RIGHT REASON** (proper motivation)
with the **RIGHT ATTITUDE** (heartily)

*Whatever you do in word or deed,
do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks through Him to
God the Father.*
Colossians 3:17

MOST OF WHAT I NEED TO KNOW

A best seller book was entitled “All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten” by Robert Fulghum. Well, most of what I need to know, I find in Genesis 1-4. These chapters contain basic lessons for living, that are amplified throughout the Bible.

THE UNIVERSE AND CREATION

God created everything. It was not done by accident. Genesis 1:1ff

The complex nature declares the existence of God. Romans 1:20

Man created in the image of God, different from other creatures. Genesis 1:26-27

Man is not just an product of evolution.

What was created is good. Genesis 1:10,12,18,21,25,(very good) :31

Man was not created sinful, nor born sinful.

MARRIAGE

Woman came from man; man comes from woman. Genesis 2:21-23

Man and woman are interdependent. 1 Corinthians 11:12

One man and one woman are to be united. Genesis 2:24

Sexual perversion is wrong. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Husband and wife are to cleave and not leave. Genesis 2:24

Monogamy. Not polygamy, not divorce. Matthew 19:4-6

SIN

Don't be deceived. Genesis 3:13

Beware! Sin is deceitful. Hebrews 3:13

Don't do it just because you can.

Choice, free will. Just because you can is not enough reason to do it.

Don't do it just because someone else did it. Genesis 3:12

It is your decision. You are to blame. No one else. Galatians 2:13

PUNISHMENT

Do wrong, suffer punishment. Genesis 3:17-19

Every action has it consequences. Romans 6:23; Colossians 3:25

God is just.

God is fair and just. Deuteronomy 32:4

God is gracious. A remedy for sin is promised. Genesis 3:15

God is love. John 3:16, 1 John 4:16

LIFE

Offer acceptable worship to be pleasing to God. (Able). Genesis 4:4-5

Acceptable service is what needs to be done. Romans 12:1-2

Rivalry and jealousy can escalate to envy, hate, murder. (Cain). Genesis 4:5-7

Exercising self-control is a must. 1 Corinthians 9:25

Not everything in life is fair. (Righteous Abel was killed.) Genesis 4:8

The Righteous One (Jesus) was killed. Acts 7:52

The righteous may suffer while sinners prosper. 1 Peter 4:12-13

Be On Guard (3)

Twisting verses to fit pre-conceived beliefs.

- Isaiah 43:10,12 Jehovah's Witnesses find their name in the Bible.
- Romans 8:39 Eternal security. (note :12-13)
Warning: 2 Peter 3:15a-16

Reading into a passage things not mentioned.

- Revelation 20:4-10 Christ returns to earth to reign 1,000 years, etc.
There is no mention of: Christ setting foot on earth again; bodily resurrected saints to live 1,000 years on earth; assembling of Jews in Palestine; earthly kingdom; rapture. Warning: 2 Corinthians 1:13

Making incidentals essential.

- Meeting in an upper room.
Mark 14:15 Jesus instituted the "communion" in an upper room.
Acts 1:13 Apostles met and waited in an upper room.
Acts 20:8 Disciples met in an upper room.

Making general application of the limited.

- Judas had a successor. Other apostles (i.e., Peter) had successors.
Acts 1:20 No replacement was sought for James. Acts 12:2
- Tongue-speaking still done today. 1 Corinthians 4:1 (note 13:8)
If one gift of Spirit is given today; then all are given including prophecy.

Misconstruing words; shifting the emphasis.

- "Cup" means only one container can be used for communion. Matthew 26:27
The contents is what is important. Impossible to have only one container for all saints.
Thanks is given for the contents, not the container.
- "Children" elders must have more than one child. 1 Timothy 3:4
The word doesn't mandate plurality; control is mandated. Cf. 1 Timothy 5:4

"Think so" given equal weight of "says-so."

- Own interpretation given as proof.

Re-interpreting scripture.

- New hermeneutics: Using settings, circumstances, and "new" insight to conclude that what is plain to the casual reader isn't really the case.
Warning: 1 Timothy 6:20. (Professing to be wise, become fools. Romans 1:22)

THE SOLUTION: GROW IN GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE

Truth must be preserved. *"Thy word is truth."* John 17:17

Study and search the Scriptures to know truth, not create "truth."

Careless or dishonest handling will result in error being believed.

Live by the principles of truth. 2 Peter 1:10-11

"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32





Ponder This

'The Shoe Is On the Other Foot'

Meaning: the situation now is the opposite of what it once was; places are reversed.

Origin: In the mid-19th century this expression was "the boot is on the other leg." Until the 1800s, there were no left or right boots or shoes. You could put either one on either foot, and if you kept putting the same shoe on the same foot, eventually the shoe would conform to the shape of that foot. If one day you accidentally put the wrong shoe on the foot, the situation would be the reversed.

One is to be a giver in the time of plenty when another is in need. There may come a time when you'll be in need of a benefactor (the shoe is on the other foot).

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*For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. For this is not for the ease of others and for your affliction, but by way of equality – at this present time your abundance being a supply for their need, so that their abundance also may become a supply for your need, that there may be equality; as it is written, "he who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little had no lack."*

2 Corinthians 8:12-15

... remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Act 20:35



## FELLOWSHIP

### koinonia

In the Bible it is used to describe the bond of common purpose that binds Christians together and to Christ.

"Fellowship" in the New Testament is translated from words using the **koin-** stem.

**Koinonia** describes a believer's relationship with the risen Lord and other Christians.

*What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have **fellowship** with us; and indeed our **fellowship** is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.*

1 John 1:3

### Sharing on the basis of faith.

*God is faithful, through whom you were called into **fellowship** with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 1 Corinthians 1:9*

### Sharing in the Lord's Supper.

*Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a **sharing** in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a **sharing** in the body of Christ? 1 Corinthians 10:16*

### Sharing with one another, caring for one another.

*"... and they began selling their property and possessions and were **sharing** them with all, as anyone might have need."*

Acts 2:45

*And do not neglect doing good and **sharing**, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16*

*Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any **fellowship** of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.*

Philippians 2:1-2

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