Blessings Resulting from Obedience

Robert R. Roxas

All sane people desire blessings in their lives. Because of this, many people strive to work hard. Some people try to get blessings in the wrong way. But we have to realize that blessings obtained in the wrong or evil way are not blessings at all. These bring a curse in ones' lives. Many ended up committing suicide, creating shattered homes, indulging in drug addiction, etc. True blessings bring every good thing that a man can have.

The Bible is full of examples of how the LORD blessed His obedient servants. The Bible also spells out the blessings that an obedient servant of God will receive. But sad to say many people failed to see this truth in the Bible. In fact, some people avoid Bible studies because for them Bible studies take away their precious time. Some people avoid Bible studies because they know that they cannot live the kind of life that they are used to live. Some people avoid Bible studies because they think that they cannot get any good things from it.

Let us study the Bible to see whether or not God is able to bless us if we are obedient to Him. Let us study some passages of the Old Testament, which was recorded for our learning (Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:6;11). This means that even if we are under the New Testament, we can still learn good principles or lessons from the great teachings found in the Old Testament.

Let us study Deuteronomy 28:1-13. Here Moses reiterated the promises of God. In verse 1, God promised His people to be set high above all nations of the earth. But this comes with a condition. NKJV renders it in this manner: “if you **DILIGENTLY OBEY** the voice of the LORD your God.” This means that when we serve God, we put some efforts to it. We cannot consider someone as diligent if he does not put any extra effort in what he does. So how to diligently obey the LORD? The same verse tells us that we can do it if we **OBSERVE CAREFULLY ALL** His commandments. Here we are to keep not only some of the commands but all of the commands that the Lord has given us. If we do that, several blessings will come upon us and **OVERTAKE** us (verse 2).

Verses 3-6 are like the Beatitudes that Jesus gave in the famous Sermon on the Mount. If we obey diligently, we shall be blessed in the city and in the country (verse 3). If we obey diligently, our offspring shall be blessed (verse 4). Not only that, the produce of the ground and the increase of our herds, the increase of our cattle, and the offspring of our flocks shall be blessed (verse 4). This may sound off to us because we are not into husbandry. But during the time of Moses, those were the things that they wanted to have in their lives to survive. In our days, we live differently, but still we need some things that we consider important in our lives. Verse 5 tells us that even the basket and the kneading bowl shall be blessed. I think we want to have food all the time, and we just love it. We are not even contented with a few variety of food. But God can bless us with these if we diligently obey His voice.

Then in verse 6, the LORD promised that we shall be blessed when we come in and go out. What does this mean? It simply means that we shall be blessed anywhere we are, whether it be at home or outside our home. Don't we like that? Have we ever felt the pressures and misfortunes in our lives? If we ever have some, have we analyzed the situation? Could it not be that we live a life that is not pleasing to God? Even if we realize the situation right away, do we need to let it happen and allow ourselves to suffer for it? Why not be obedient to God

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always and enjoy the blessings that He will give?

Now let us continue to learn what other things the LORD will give us if we diligently obey Him. In verse 7, the LORD promised that our enemy would be defeated before us. We may not have the physical enemy, but this could be some forms of problems that are undesirable to us. In verse 8, the LORD promised to command His blessings to fill our storehouse and in all things which we set our hand. Who does not want to be successful in his career, his family, etc.? Brethren, if we really believe in the LORD, we can trust God to take care of us everyday in our lives. We should always remember what will happen to us if we do not believe in Him.

In verse 9, the LORD promised to establish us as His holy people. Who does not like to be a part of God's people? We can be if we keep His commandments and walk in His ways. What are His ways? His ways include how we serve Him, how we worship Him, etc. Verse 10 tells us that if we diligently obey Him, the people shall see that we are called Christians, a people called by His name. The people shall be afraid of us, not because we are that scary-looking persons, but they would be afraid to mistreat us knowing that the LORD will fight for us.

In verse 11, the LORD again promised abundance in every way: plenty of goods, in the fruit of our body, in the increase of our livestock, and in the produce of our ground. Moses must have been very serious about this because he reiterated what he just gave in verse 4. Then more promises are recorded in verse 12. It says that the LORD will open to us His good treasure, the heavens to give the rain to our land in its seasons, and to bless all the work of our hands. Many people feel the heat waves. Could this be the result of disobedience?

Another important promise is found in verse 12. His people will be lending to other people and will not be borrowing from other people. Which one do we like, to borrow or to lend? In verse 13, the LORD promised to promote us to higher positions while on earth, if we obey the commandments of the LORD and are careful to observe them. This is to reiterate what is promised in verse 1.

Brethren, have we realized why unpleasant things happen in our lives? Is it not true that we encounter the unpleasant things in life when we are disobedient to God? Is it not true that we encounter the unpleasant things in life when we do not walk according to the ways of God? Brethren, let us trust God and serve Him diligently to obtain the pleasant things that we want in life. These include good jobs, our future boyfriends/girlfriends or husbands/wives, among others. Let us continually offer our lives to God, and He will pour out His blessings upon us.

In closing, let me read to you Psalms 37:3-4, "***Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires our hearts.***"[1]

Thank you very much. May God bless us all as we strive to diligently obey His words by observing them carefully!

Preached: July 24, 2011
Place: The church of Christ in Tisa
Occasion: Morning service

[1] Taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.

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