



4050 80th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, Fl

Volume 11 Number 1

January 3, 2010

SKYVIEW BULLETIN

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS



"Count your blessings, name them one by one," are the words of a great song we often sing. This song admonishes us that when we are tossed on life's billows, when we are discouraged, when we think all is lost, when we are burdened with a load of care, when our cross seems heavy, when amid conflicts, we should count our many blessings. If we do, the song suggests, God will be in control over all, angels will attend, we will be given help and comfort to our journey's end, every doubt will fly and we will be singing as the days go by.

As we begin a new year and look back over the past year, many have experienced some hardships. Some have lost jobs, some have lost loved ones in death, some have experienced surgeries and illnesses and some have had personal issues to deal with. Tribulations like these can certainly cause us to be discouraged and even depressed. But even when we must deal with difficulties there are many blessings that come our way. The song tells us we will be surprised what the Lord has done when we count our blessings and name them one by one.

Even in bad times, we have the promise that things will work out for our good. One of the greatest promises of the Bible is the one we find in Romans 8:28. *"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."* We need to realize that God has not promised that everything in our lives will be good. We are going to suffer some bad times. But God has promised that He will take the bad things along with the good things and work them all out for our good.

This requires faith on our part to believe God. It's hard to see any good thing when we are suffering. It's difficult to understand how bad things can be good for us. But faith is the assurance of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1). We don't have to understand how God is going to do this, we just have to trust Him to do it.

Counting our blessings, even when things are not very good, is an expression of faith on our part. We all have so much for which to be thankful. When we feel we are at our lowest point in life, we can always look around and see those who are hurting more, have less, and need more than us. If it was possible to trade our problems with someone else, chances are after experiencing another's troubles, we would welcome our own back in a very short time. So, we can even be thankful that our difficulties are not as severe as others.

In the mountain discourse in Matthew 5, Jesus said that we are blessed when we are persecuted and reviled for His sake. He said that those so persecuted should rejoice and be exceedingly glad because they will have a reward in heaven (Matthew 5:11,12).

***It is hard to
see any
good thing
when we
are
suffering.***

ELDERS

**Ron Bastien
Don Greenlee
Charles Murray
David Roberts**

DEACONS

**Ron Bentz
Frank Edwards
Jim Ingram
George Loyd
Andy Murray
Dennis Trask
Brad VanHaerents**

PREACHER

Charles Murray

MEN WE SUPPORT

**Frank Andre - Bartow, Fla.
William Stewart--Kingston, Canada
Bob Owen — Trip to Europe
Mike Mendez —trip to Cuba**

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY

**Worship.....9:30 A.M.
Classes.....10:50 A.M.
Worship.....6:00 P.M.**

WORSHIP PLACE

**4050 80th Ave N
PO Box 3118
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WEB: skyviewchurch.org

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Let me challenge each one reading this to make a list of all of the blessings God gave you in 2009. As the song suggests, “name them one by one.” Praise God and give God thanks for each one of them.

If you had surgery last year and have recovered, thank God for that blessing. If you lost a job, but found another one, or God is sustaining you and you are eating and have a place to sleep, thank God for this blessing. If you are having difficulty meeting your expenses, thank God that you have the means to meet some of them. If you have lost a loved one to death, consider the blessing of being reunited with that loved in eternity.

There are some other blessings we sometimes take for granted. What a blessing it is for us to have a comfortable meeting house in which we can assemble and worship God. Some Christians are not so blessed. What a blessing to have in the congregation more than a dozen men who are capable song leaders. What a blessing to have so many talented men who can make talks, offer the invitation, serve at the Lord’s table,

teach classes, make announcements and serve in many ways. In some congregations only one or two men are present who must fill all of the leadership roles. What a blessing it is to have so many women in the congregation who teach classes, make meals for the sick and shut-ins, and serve in so many capacities. Not every congregation is so blessed. What a blessing to have dedicated elders who feed the flock and care for the spiritual needs of the flock and hard working deacons who take care of the physical needs. Again, not all congregations are so blessed. We need to count our blessings as a collective spiritual family. We are blessed with a loving congregation. Demonstrations of love for one another occur almost on a daily basis. We also are blessed with unity. We are at peace with one another. Not all congregations have this. Many have contentions and fights among themselves and are not blessed with the same mind and the same judgment.

We also need to do some counting of blessings individually.

We also need to do some counting of blessings individually. As suggested earlier, we all have so much for which we can be thankful. If you make a list of every blessing you received in 2009, you will probably be surprised. If we make this list, we need to keep it before us as we move into 2010. It would be a good idea to start another new list and write down each blessing we receive in the new year. We can then compare our new blessings with the past ones.

Above all, we must count our spiritual blessings. Even if we do not have many physical blessings, we can rejoice in our spiritual ones. We are told that God has “blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3). Among these spiritual blessings we have been chosen in Him so we can be holy and blameless (verse 4). We have been accepted (verse 6). We have redemption and the forgiveness of sins as a blessing in Christ (verse 7). We have been blessed with an inheritance (verse 11). In Ephesians 2, Paul continues to list our spiritual blessings. Even though we were dead in trespasses and sins, Christ made us alive (verse 1). We have been blessed with God’s love and mercy and kindness through Christ (verses 4-7). What wonderful blessings we have in Christ.

If you are a Christian, don’t take any of God’s blessings for granted, but count them daily and give God praise and thanks for them.

If you are not a Christian, you too are receiving blessings from God and may not even be aware of them. Every physical thing you have and enjoy comes from God. You may not acknowledge Him or Christ, but every good gift comes from the heavenly Father (James 1:17). You need to realize and confess the source of your physical blessings and then obey God so you can enjoy the greatest blessing of all—salvation and all spiritual blessings that are in Christ.

Believing in Christ as the Son of God is necessary (Hebrews 11:6), turning from sin in repentance is necessary (Luke 13:3), confessing your faith in Christ as God’s Son is necessary (Romans 10:9-10) and putting Christ on in baptism is necessary (Galatians 3:27; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21).

And then, “Count your many blessings—see what God has done.”



Adult—auditorium
class
Angels
Taught by
Charles Murray
Room # 4
1st Principles
taught by
Dave Roberts

**Adult
Auditorium
class is on Angels
Learn about origin,
nature, and work of
angels in the past and
today
New class beginning
in January:
The Life Of Christ**