

BLESSED BEYOND MEASURE

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We are blessed beyond measure. The problem is we take the blessings for granted. At least a lot of us do. Ask yourself the following questions. When have I gone hungry? When is the last time I drank from a mud puddle or bathed in a stream with human waste floating in the water? When was the last time I didn't have a roof over my head? When was I hot or cold because I didn't have a source for hot or cold air in my house? Do I live in a cardboard house?

The reality is, there are thousands of people in the world today who live that way. They don't know where their next meal is to be found and often go to bed hungry. Did you know that food is sent home to at least 20% of the students that attend school here in Anderson County? I only know this because in the past I picked up bags of food and delivered them to one or more of the schools in the school system.

It's easy to get caught up in life and let the needy pass by. We were not born in a third-world country. We were born in the greatest nation that's ever been up to this time. The abundance has always been there except for during the Great Depression. Since we weren't alive during that time it's difficult to relate to the shortages, bank closings, not much if any money, or jobs that were nearly impossible to find. Sure not like that today. Plenty of jobs, but only a few want to work.

A large part of the Christian community takes all of the blessings from God for granted. I worked hard for what I have. You probably did, too, but answer this question. Who gave you the abilities to work and have such a blessed life? God did. We've not done anything that God hasn't allowed us to do. ["And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." \(Philippians 4:19\)](#)

The United States of America is on a downward slope. This nation has turned its back on God in so many ways. This nation has let the fox in the hen house. History is repeating itself through the Trojan Horse that's in the United States today.

Even as difficult as things are getting here in the USA, we're much better off than the first century Christians. I am not aware of Christians being put in jail here for the purpose of being put in an arena to be attacked by wild animals. I am not aware of Christians here being crucified, or having tar and pitch poured over them and set on fire while still alive to provide light for a garden party such as Nero's. I am not aware of Christians here being beaten and sold into slavery. Yes, this really did happen just because of their belief in Jesus.

Please be aware that Christians **are** being martyred in our world every week because of their belief in Jesus, not willing to denounce him even knowing their fate. ["For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it." \(Matthew 16:25\)](#) That takes a lot of belief and faith in Jesus.

The church of the first century suffered great persecution. “Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.” (Acts 8:1) “So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone.” (Acts 11:19)

Don't let all the gloom and doom frighten you. Yes, God has blessed you beyond measure. “Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.” (James 1:17) Yes, this country is turning away from God and His word. Do not be discouraged. Peter wrote to several churches facing persecution the following encouraging words. They are as relevant today as in the first century. Be encouraged by this passage.

“³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, ⁷ so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ⁸ and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.” (I Peter 1:3-9)

Yes, you have been asked to examine where your blessing come from. Yes, there is some wording about our country turning away from God and His word. Yes, there are examples of the persecution the early church experienced, and some endure persecution in today's world. However, there is assurance in God of your salvation. Reread I Peter 1:3-9 and see the living hope found only in God. Have no fear because the Lord God is with you. Have a blessed week.

No Fear: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zaxb02JsvRA&list=RDzaxb02JsvRA&start_radio=1