Do You Want a Blessed Life?
Then Follow the Word of the Lord

Proverbs 3:5-6 5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Sadly, most people's answers are based upon **man's** thinking and reasoning, rather than upon what **God says** on any topic.

- And **that ignoring God's word**, my brethren, is one major reason why the world we live in is in such a mess!
- Do you want to change that and live a life filled with the **blessings** of God?
- Then I encourage you to focus on God's word, the Bible.
- Hear it, read it, obey it, love the word of the Lord, and you will position yourself to experience a richly blessed life.

Luke 11:28 He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

A woman commented to Jesus that the mother who bore Him and nursed Him was blessed.

- Jesus replied that there was a **greater** measure of blessing ("blessed **rather**…") available to all who **hear God's word and obey it**.
- But Jesus said that those who are truly blessed are those who live in **dependence on God's word**.
- I am reminded of the Proverb:

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; [6] in all your ways acknowledge him…

Would you like to be consistently living a blessed life?

- Then I encourage you to live a life of **trust in the word of God** over and above the so-called wisdom of man.
- Let's look at some of the multi-faceted benefits you will experience by grounding and building your life on the truths God has revealed in His word, the holy Scriptures that we know as the Bible.

1 Peter 1:23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

We are saved, born again, given a new spiritual birth, by the "word of truth".

In that Bible I found "the gospel" (the Good News about Jesus), I found the liberating "word of truth".

- And those words, the revealed words of God Himself, overthrew our carnal thinking and led us to place our trust in the Lord, rather than in ourselves.

John 5:24 I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

Hear and believe the word of the Lord, and you will experience this astounding blessing: you will "cross over from **death to life**".

- How? Simply by hearing and believing the saving word of God.

John 8:51 I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.

Jesus also promised that those who "keep [his] word ... will **never see death**".

Mark 13:31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

- Jesus said that His words will never pass away. that gives us a standard of **absolute certainty** in this ever-changing world.
- We can establish our lives upon timeless, enduring values, rather than upon society's constant shifts.

Psalm 119:89 Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

God's word is **eternal**, it stands firm (Psalm 119:89).

- It will outlast fads. In short, it will enable you to build your life upon solid rock (the Lord's word), rather than upon ever-shifting sands.

John 8:31-32, KJV Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed in him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; [32] And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

The truths contained in the word of the Lord (31) will "make you **free**".

- Freed from error and the damaging results of living in error
- Freed from habits, addictions, bondages
- Freed to live a fruitful, productive life
- Take Jesus' advice and **"continue** in [His] word".
- Read the word of God, pray over it, ponder it deeply, and obey it.

You'll be blessed by doing so, and your life will be changed for the good.

Psalm 119:105, KJV Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

We live in a world of moral and spiritual **darkness**.

- The entrance of God's word into your life brings **light and understanding** (vs. 130).
- As the Scriptures are illuminated and made alive to you by the Holy Spirit, you begin to "see" as you never saw
- before.

Psalm 119:130, KJV The entrance of thy words giveth light; 9it giveth understanding unto the simple.

God's word prayerfully considered will also give you clear **guidance**. It will be like a lamp **lighting God's path** for your life (vs. 105).

John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

God's word will have a **"sanctifying"** influence on you.

- It will set you apart from worldly ways and establish you more securely in God's ways.
- And it will lead you into a greater walk of **holiness**, which is very pleasing to the Lord
- God's word in your heart will help you live a life of **moral purity** — "How can a young man keep his way **pure?**
- **By** living according to **your word**" (Psalm 119:9).

The Lord's word in your heart will help you to **resist sin** — "I have hidden your **word** in my heart that I **might not sin** against you" (Psalm 119:11).

- That's one of the many reasons why it's so important to read, study, and take to heart the word of the Lord.
- It is a protecting influence against sin.

Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

God's word has power to **cleanse** us "from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit" (2 Cor. 7:1) and thereby to lead us into greater holiness.

Romans 10:17, KJV So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

There is physical hearing, such as listening to music.

- But there is also a spiritual hearing.
- In it, our ears hear the word of God, but it goes beyond that and penetrates deeply into our soul and spirit and **produces faith**.

John 15:7 If you remain in me and **my words remain in you, ask** whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

- The word of the Lord will energize your **prayer** life.
- It will acquaint you with those **things that are God's will** and those that are **not** God's will.
- And that in turn will enable you to pray to Him with faith and confidence concerning your petitions (1 John 5:14-15).

Psalm 119:28 My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word.

God's word, the Bible, will strengthen, encourage, and undergird you in times of **great grief**.

Isaiah 55:10-11 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, [11] so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

God's word is very **powerful.**

- **It will accomplish** that which God desires for your life.
- It **will achieve** the purposes of God concerning you.
- Read God's word; pray over the word of the Lord.
- Allow God to speak to you through it to give you an idea of His plans and purposes for you.
- Then confidently expect that God is able to achieve those same purposes.

Proverbs 4:20-22 My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. [21] Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; [22] for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body.

God's words are **"health** to a man's **whole body"** (vs. 22).

- God's word teaches such **health-enhancing** truths as moderation, avoidance of addictions, renouncing bitterness and other destructive emotions in our hearts, and so much more.
- A life lived according to the word of the Lord gives us the best opportunity to live a long life in good health.

Matthew 7:24-27 Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. [25] The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. [26] But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. [27] The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.

God's word heard and obeyed gives us a **secure foundation** against the great storms of life.

- When the wind, rain, and floods of this life aim themselves at you, if your life is built upon the rock of God's word, your house, your life, will not fall.
- By contrast, when the storms of life come against the one who does **not** build his "house" on the rock of God's word, that house, that life, will "fall with a **great crash**".

John 6:63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

A couple of closing thoughts concerning the blessings to be found from following God's word:

1) **Man's** thoughts, philosophies, and reasonings are essentially natural, earthly, and limited by finite human capacities.

- The thoughts and words **of the Lord**, by contrast, **"are spirit".**
- They are spiritual, they are not limited by earthly considerations, and they are infinite in scope and power.

2) **Man's** ways often lead to **destructive** behavior and even to death. **God's** ways, revealed in His word, **"are life".**

In closing, and to summarize:

"Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

(Luke 11:28)