

Key to a Blessed life – 29/01/2017

“Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.” Rev.4:11

Beloved in the Lord,

This one verse of Scripture gives us the key to a blessed life. So many people are in pursuit of happiness. They are looking in all the wrong places, they are placing their hope in fortune, or fame, or people, or religion, or ideals. So many spend their entire life looking, and yet they are never happy and blessed. The problem is that they are not looking in the right place.

The key to a blessed life is not found in the world or its systems, nor is it with any one person.

The key to a blessed and successful life can only be found in one place and that is God’s Word. We can only be blessed when we are in a faith relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ.

This is so clearly spelt out for us in the very first Psalm. Even though we may be familiar with this Psalm, it is important that we have another look at it, as we embark upon a New Year in our congregational life.

***How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners,
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!***

***² But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
And in His law he meditates day and night.***

***³ He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,
Which yields its fruit in its season
And its leaf does not wither;***

And in whatever he does, he prospers.

***⁴ The wicked are not so,
But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.***

***⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.***

***⁶ For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the wicked will perish.***

Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord....

You see a blessed life is closely linked to a right mindset. Our mind is the control tower that runs our life. It is important that our mind is set properly, and that the parameters of our thinking are correct. If they are not, and our mind is not set on God’s Word, then we will not experience a blessed life.

January 29, 2017

Key to a blessed life

The very first step in setting our mind is to hand over complete control to God. We need to surrender ourselves to Him in faith. Paul writes:

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”
(Rom.12:1-2)

So, you see to understand what God’s will for us is, we must first surrender all to Him.

This is where today’s text comes in. We read it again:

“Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.” Rev.4:11

When we have surrendered ourselves to God, then we begin to understand that He and He alone is worthy to receive all the glory, honour and power, because by His will and His power all things have been created.

Here in one verse we are told three important things, that we can use as a strong foundation for our life.

1. ***God is worthy to receive glory and honour and power.***
2. ***God has created all things.***
3. ***All things happen by his will.***

All three points are very important and we can view them as legs on a three-legged stool. If, one is missing then there is no stability. Let us now take a closer look at these three points.

Firstly, God is worthy to receive glory and honour and power.

It is important that we honour God and glorify Him in all that we say and do. There is nothing greater or more powerful than God. He is God and we are to honour Him. It should not be difficult to honour God when we realise who He is. God is love. He is a good God. He is a Father to those who believe in Him. He receives us into His family and He provides for all our needs both great and small. His right hand is good and generous and loving and He does all things well. His motivation is always love.

We read in Psalm 103:

***“Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And all that is within me, bless His holy name.
² Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And forget none of His benefits;
³ Who pardons all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases;
⁴ Who redeems your life from the pit,
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion. “(Ps.103:1-4)***

This is all given to us through Jesus, God's Son. Jesus took our punishment upon Himself and with His Blood He redeemed us from eternal death. He did it because He loves us. He and He alone is worthy to receive all glory, honour and power and praise forevermore. He alone could save us.

There is an insight given to us in the Book of Revelation, where John sees into Heaven. God is on His throne surrounded by Heavenly beings. God is holding the Book of eternal life in His Hand and the question is raised:

"Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?"

³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it. ⁴ Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; ⁵ and one of the elders *said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals."

⁶ And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. ⁷ And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. ⁸ When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they *sang a new song, saying,

"Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

¹⁰ "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

¹³ And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying,

"To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."

¹⁴ And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped. (Rev.5)

You see Jesus and Jesus alone is worthy to receive the glory and the honour – no-one else! That is the first of our three foundation legs.

The second is that God has created all things.

This is so clearly stated in the opening verse of the Bible:

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. "(Gen.1:1)

This one sentence, this verse is the foundation for all of life. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. There is nothing to ponder, nothing to postulate about, nothing

to try and figure out. We don't need to know all the ins and outs, just simply God did it. When we accept this and it becomes our confession then the second foundation leg is stable and secure.

The third and final leg is closely related and that is that all things occur by God's Will. Oh, how we need to grasp this truth. God is sovereign and He does as He pleases and He is not answerable to us. He is God.

Praise him that He has bound Himself by His Word. He will never contradict nor break His Word. He had tied Himself to His Holy Word, and His Word is binding for all of eternity.

We read:

"BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER." (1. Peter 1:25)

***Jesus said: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away."
(Lk.21:33)***

Herein is our security. God is sovereign and His Word remains forever unchanged.

As we begin a New Year in the life of our Congregation, may we surrender all to Him anew in love and faith and may our daily confession be:

"Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

Amen.

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All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.