

Blessings In Christ Romans 8:1-8

As a whole, mankind is a whiny bunch

We often complain. Too much rain, not enough rain. Too cold, wish we had snow. Too hot, wish the sun would come out more. We lost, that was a terrible call, curling is a sport? High prices, empty shelves. Wages too low, work too hard. Porridge too hot, porridge too cold. To hear most folks, everything is wrong. Why must we always look on the downside? Yes, gas seems outrageous. I remember seeing prices well below a dollar a gallon, 45 or 50 years ago! I also remember filling up every 100-150 miles or so. Now I can go twice that far between fill-ups.

I also have a personal vehicle. With A/C. And Heat. I can travel freely for thousands of miles. I can make a phone call from just about anywhere. I get pictures and video of my grandson within minutes. I can even watch him play or eat in real time, though he lives 7 hours away.

I can buy groceries from my recliner. I can get groceries for two weeks and not even get out of my vehicle. When I do go in, I can choose from several varieties of almost any food I am looking for. Have you ever counted the number of choices on the Walmart "wall o cheese"? There is a 4 ft section just for peanut butter! Have you considered how many different kinds of "bread" are on that aisle?

Do you want a green shirt? Which shade? Which style? What material? size? A 12 ft aisle for socks! Just men's. Motor oil, tires, computers, shoes, toys, flowers, shampoo, soap, candy. More choices for most items than we can consider in the short time we have for a shopping trip. Cause we have books to read, shows to watch, grass to mow, clothes to wash, music to hear, birds to watch, etc.

We are blessed well beyond what we deserve, yet we spend our time complaining about those very blessings. We spend too much time focused on inconveniences and not enough on the blessing.

Think about it like this: Do you have cross-stitch in your house? Look at the back. Not talking about one your Granny made. She was probably as careful about back as front. Get a store-bought ones. The way we often see our blessings could be compared to hanging those store-bought cross-stitch items with the knotty tangled side showing and the neat well-ordered side against the wall.

We need to start seeing the blessings.

BTW, often we are no better about the blessings we have in Christ!

We walk through life always afraid we will fall. It seems most of us think we are travelling on the thinnest of ice and may fall in at any time. Yet Scripture promises safety in Christ. We are assured of salvation if we are His. There is NO CONDEMNATION in Christ - **Romans 8:1**

We enjoy a righteousness that can never be altered - **Romans 1:17**

Our pardon will not be reversed - **Micah 7:18; Romans 8:38-39**

A peace that can never be disturbed - **Ephesians 2:14; Romans 8:6**

A strength that can never be weakened - **Ephesians 3:16**

A refuge which can never be moved - **Psalms 46:1**

A joy which can never be described - **1Peter 1:8**

A hope which can never be disappointed - **1Timothy 1:1; Romans 8:11**

A supply which can never be exhausted - **Philippians 4:19**

An inheritance which can never fade away - **1Peter 1:4; Romans 8:16-17**

Let us avoid the trap of complaining. We are richly blessed in the physical world. The spiritual blessings we enjoy in Christ are beyond what we could imagine.

No matter our lot in life, even if we lose everything, we are richly blessed through our relationship with God in Christ. This is why Paul could rejoice though he had been in prison for several years.

It is this attitude he urged in the epistles he wrote to the churches in the first century.

Now the question.

Are you in Christ? These blessings are dependent upon being "in Christ" - **Romans 8:1**

Kennedy???