

# A Blessed & Prosperous Life

A Study by Franklin

The purpose of this study is for us to understand how to live our life in such a way so as to please our Heavenly Father and Lord Jesus Christ, which positions us to receive abundant blessings, live in His favor, and enjoy a prosperous life.

Psalms 3:8 **Salvation belongs to the Lord; Your blessing** (singular) **be upon Your people!** Selah.

- The Greatest Blessing of all is the **Blessing of Salvation** which is freely given to everyone who believes.

Romans 4:6-8 **David speaks of the blessing** (singular) **on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: (7) Blessed** are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, and whose sins have been covered. (8) **Blessed** is the man whose sin the LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT.

- The Blessing of Salvation is **not** what this study is about.

This study is about the Blessings beyond The Original and Great Blessing of Salvation – Proverb 10:6 the **Blessings** (plural) **that are on the head of the righteous.**

Proverb 10:22 **The blessing of the LORD brings wealth, and He adds no trouble to it.** NIV

- What can you do to RECEIVE these BLESSINGS ?

## THE ANSWER:

Proverb 16:7 **When a man's ways** (what he does and the way he lives his life) **are PLEASING TO THE LORD,** He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

- **He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.** The LORD gives him FAVOR with everyone. Almost everyone is good to him.
- After the “day of Pentecost” the early church was . . . **together with gladness and sincerity of heart, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people.** Acts 2:46-47
- However, pleasing men is not our pursuit. **Am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.**

Galatians 1:10

The **First Key** to living a **blessed** and **prosperous** life is to desire above everything else:

**TO PLEASE** the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

- Luke 16:13 **No servant** (Greek: house servant) **can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.**
- House Servant or Bond Servant? Exodus 21:2-6
- Mary . . . you have found **favor** with God. Luke 1:30
- David found **favor** in God's sight Acts 7:46; 13:22
- And **Jesus** kept increasing in **wisdom** and **stature**, and in **favor** with **God and men**. Luke 2:52 We should do the same.
- It would be good if we all could say what JESUS said: **He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I ALWAYS DO THE THINGS THAT ARE PLEASING TO HIM.** John 8:29
- The LORD is **with** every true believer: **HE has said, I will never leave you, I will never forsake you** (Hebrews 13:5). However, if you choose to live a life that **is not pleasing to him**, You will not have and enjoy many of His Blessings.
- **For those who live a life "pleasing to the LORD" His presence is made known by His favor and blessings.**

To Love and Seek the LORD is Very Pleasing to Him

- Hebrews 11:6 **Without faith** it is impossible to **please Him**, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a **rewarder** of those who **diligently seek Him**.
- Psalm 34:10 **They who seek the LORD** shall not be in want of **any good thing**.
- To seek an ever growing **relationship** with the LORD requires a life of ever increasing **PRAYER**. Matthew 6:6 **Pray . . . will reward you.**
- Matthew 6:33 **SEEK FIRST His Kingdom** and **His righteousness**, and **all these things will be provided to you**.

- The “things” or “blessings provided” are food, clothing and shelter.
- To **SEEK FIRST His Kingdom** JESUS must be the FIRST PRIORITY of your life and you strive to OBEY & SERVE HIM as your KING.
- To **seek first His righteousness** is to realize you do not have, and never will have, a righteousness of your own but are totally depraved and in need of HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Romans 3:22-24 the **righteousness of God** through **faith** in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; . . . <sup>24</sup> being justified (made righteous) as a **gift** by **His grace** through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus

- Proverb 8:17-21 I love **those who love me**; & those who **diligently seek me** will find me. (18) **Riches** and **honor** are with Me, enduring **wealth** and **righteousness**. (19) My fruit is better than gold, even pure gold, and my yield better than choicest silver. (20) **I walk** in the way of **righteousness**, in the paths of **justice**, (21) To **endow** those **who love Me** with **wealth**, that **I may fill their treasuries**.
- To diligently seek HIM you must **walk the path HE walks**. Riches, honor and wealth are with HIM. **Seek HIM! Walk with HIM!** in the way of **righteousness**, in the paths of **justice**

**Ephesians 5:8** for you were formerly darkness, but now **you are Light** in the Lord; **walk as children of Light**

- John 8:12 Jesus said, **I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.**  
(John 1:4-5)
- As a believer you are **not to walk in the ways of the world**. You are a “child of Light” (John 12:36) and you are to walk or live your life to bring light into the darkness of this world and its ways. **This is pleasing to the Lord.** \*2 Corinthians 6:14-18 \*1 John 2:15-17

(9) for the **fruit** of the Light consists in all **goodness** and **righteousness** and **truth**, (10) **trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.**

- If you are walking in the light all that you do will be “good,” “will be “right” and “honest.”
- You will be walking in a way that is “**pleasing** to the Lord” and will have positioned yourself in the LORD’s **favor** and **Blessings**.

(11) **DO NOT PARTICIPATE in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, BUT INSTEAD EXPOSE THEM;**

- Expose them by **NOT DOING** what they do, but **only doing** what is **pleasing** to the LORD JESUS CHRIST. Matthew 5:14-16 Cp. John 1:5

(12) for it is disgraceful even **to speak** of the things which are done by them in secret. (13) But **all things become visible** when they are **exposed by the light**, for everything that becomes visible is light.

- I suggest you **always** remember this verse:  
**Numbers 32:23 . . . be sure your sin will find you out.**

(14) For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will **shine** on you."

- "**Awake,**" rise up from the dead way of life, and **the favor and blessings** of the LORD "**will shine on you.**"

Proverb 4:18 The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,  
That **shines brighter and brighter** until the full day.

And on the contrary - the path of the sinner is like the darkness of night that becomes darker and darker.

(15) Therefore **be careful how you walk**, not as unwise men but **as wise**,  
(16) making the most of your time, because **the days are evil**. (17) **So then do not be foolish**, but **understand what the will of the Lord is**.

- The "will of the Lord" is not hidden. It is printed clearly in the Bible, in every language, so that **whoever desires** to know the **will of the Lord** may easily do so. Philippians 2:13
- Moses had a strong desire to "know the will of the LORD" and cried out: **Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favor in Your sight, let me know Your ways that I may know You.** Exodus 33:13

In studying the Scriptures, you will not only discover the **will of the Lord** - HIS Ways - and obtain **His favor**, but HE will also give you an **ever increasing revelation of HIMSELF and His Glory**.

Exodus 33:18 Moses said, "**I pray You, show me Your glory!**" <sup>19</sup> And the LORD said, I Myself will make all My **goodness** pass before you, and will **proclaim the name of the LORD** before you.

In his unyielding pursuit, The LORD revealed His Glory to Moses.

➤ And HE will do the same for you. 2Cor.3:18

Numbers 14:20-21 **all the earth will be filled with the Glory of the LORD**

"The whole earth is filled with His glory. And every common bush ablaze with God. But only he who has eyes to see takes off his shoes. The rest sit around and eat blackberries." Elizabeth Barrett Browning

### Knowing and Obeying His Word is Pleasing to The LORD

- Psalm 1:1-3 How **blessed** is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly, 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**.
- Proverb 3:1-4 My son, **do not forget my teaching**, but let **your heart keep my commandments**; (2) For length of days and **years of life** and **peace** they will **add to you**. (3) **Do not** let **kindness** and **truth** leave you; **bind them** around your neck, **write them** on the tablet of your heart. (4) So you will find **favor** and a **good reputation** in the sight of God and man.
- Proverb 4:20-23 My son, **give attention to my words**; incline your ear to **my sayings** (not the world's). (21) **Do not let them depart** from your sight; **Keep them in the midst of your heart**. (22) For **they are life** to those who find them and **health to all their body**. (23) **Watch over your heart with all diligence**, for from it **flow the springs of life**.
- Proverb 8:32-9:1 Now therefore, O sons, listen to me, for **blessed** are they **who keep my ways**. (33) Heed instruction and be wise, and **do not neglect it**. (34) **Blessed** is the man who **listens to me**, **watching** daily at my gates, **waiting** at my doorposts. (35) For he who **finds Me finds life** and obtains **favor** from the Lord. (36) But **he who sins against me injures himself**; all those who hate me love death.

- John 15:7-11 **If you abide in Me, and My words live in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.** (9) Just as the Father has loved Me, **I have loved you; LIVE IN MY LOVE** (this is abiding). (10) **If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.** (11) These things I have spoken to you **so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.**

To Know & Walk in HIS ways brings Great BLESSINGS & JOY.

- Luke 11:28          Matthew 7:24-27          James 1:25

## FAITHFULNESS is Very Pleasing to The LORD

- Proverb 28:20 **A faithful man will abound with blessings**
- Luke 12:42-44 **Who is a faithful steward, a wise man whom his master will set over those in his household to supply them their portion? (43) Blessed is that servant whom his master finds so doing when he arrives. (44) Truly I tell you, he will set him in charge over all his possessions.** AMP
  - From this passage being **faithful with the work** given you by your boss and the LORD, is pleasing to Him.
  - Matthew 20:25-28; 25:21; John 13:15-17
- Luke 16:10-12 **Whoever is faithful with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. (11) So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? (12) And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?**
  - Ask the HOLY SPIRIT to show you ways to be more faithful . . . to the LORD, to Others, to Yourself.

## DILIGENCE and Hard Work bring Blessings.

- Genesis 3:17-19 To Adam He said, "Because you . . . ate from the tree . . . Cursed is the ground because of you; **through painful toil** you will eat of it all the days of your life. (18) It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. (19) **By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food.**
  - Work is a result of the "first man's" disobedience. To the degree a person **avoids work** he will suffer **loss** and live in **poverty**.
- Proverb 22:29 Do you see a man **skilled in his work**? He will stand before kings.
- Proverb 6:6-11 Take **a lesson from the ants**, you lazy ones. **Learn from their ways** and be wise! (7) Even though they have no ruler to make them work, (8) **they labor hard** all summer, gathering food for the winter. (9) But you, lazy ones, how long will you sleep? When will you wake up? Learn this lesson: (10) A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest (11) and **poverty** will pounce on you like a thief; **scarcity** will attack you like a robber.

## A GENEROUS, GIVING Heart is Pleasing to The LORD

- Proverb 11:25 **A generous man will prosper**; he who refreshes **others** will himself be refreshed. Mark 9:41
- Proverb 22:9 He who is **generous will be blessed**, for he gives some of his food to the poor.
- Matthew 5:7 **Blessed** are the merciful, for they shall **receive** mercy.
- Matthew 6:2-4 So when **you give** to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be **honored by men**. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving will be in secret; and **your Father** who sees what is done in secret **will reward you**.



- Malachi 3:10-11 Bring **all the tithes** into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. **If you do**, says the LORD Almighty, **I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Let me prove it to you!** (11) Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not shrivel before they are ripe," says the LORD Almighty. NLT
    - When you receive your wages, or paycheck:
      - FIRST: set aside **10% plus for the LORD.**
      - SECOND: set aside **10% for your savings.**
      - THIRD: **invest 10%** for your future.
      - FORTH: **live on 70%** of your income.
- Try it. Let HIM prove it to you.

### Giving HONOR to Others Pleases the LORD

- Romans 13:7 **Give everyone what you owe them:** If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; **if honor, then honor.** NIV
- Proverb 3:9-10 **Honor the LORD** from your **wealth** and from the **first of all your produce**; (10) So your **barns will be filled with plenty** and your vats will **overflow with new wine.**
- Ephesians 6:2-3 **Honor your father and mother**, which is the first commandment with a **promise (3) that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.** NIV
- 1 Peter 3:7 **You husbands** in the same way, live with your **wives** in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and **show her honor** as a fellow heir of the grace of life, **so that your prayers will not be hindered.**

### To hate sin and Live a Righteous Life Brings Blessings:

- Matthew 5:6 **Blessed** are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness**, for they **shall be satisfied.**



- Consider the life of a relative unknown: Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that **You would bless me indeed and enlarge my border**, and that Your **hand** might be with me, and that You would keep me from **harm** that it may not pain me!"  
And **God granted him what he requested**. 1 Chronicles 4:10

**WHY?** verse 9: Jabez was **more honorable** than his brothers, . . .

James 5:16 The prayer of a **righteous man** is powerful.

- Proverb 3:7-8 Do not be wise in your own eyes; **fear the Lord** and **turn away from evil**. (8) **It will be healing to your body and nourishment** to your bones.
- Proverb 13:21 Adversity pursues sinners, but the **righteous** will be **rewarded with prosperity**.

Adversity or Prosperity - That is your choice.

A Blessed & Prosperous life is available if you want it.  
It is Your Decision.

It depends on what you VALUE MOST and Seek.

Jesus asked His disciples: **What are you seeking?** (John 1:38)

He is asking each one of us the same question.

We must seriously ask ourselves: For **am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God?** Or **am I striving to please men?** If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ. Galatians 1:10

There is a **stern warning** for those who are driven and motivated to **please** and impress and be accepted by those **pursuing** the **things of the world**:

Let no one **deceive you** with empty words, for because of these things the **wrath** of God comes upon the **sons of disobedience**. (7) **THEREFORE DO NOT BE PARTAKERS WITH THEM** (Ephesians 5:6-17).

- The message is clear: The LORD's wrath is upon "sons of disobedience." And any believer living that kind of life is **certainly not pleasing** to the Lord and that believer will reap many **problems** and **difficulties** and the LORD's **discipline**.
  - Proverb 3:12 For whom the LORD loves He reproveth, even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.

Galatians 6:7-9 Do not be misled: You cannot ignore God and get away with it. **You will always reap what you sow.** (8) The one who sows **to please** his sinful nature, from that nature **will reap destruction**; the one who sows **to please the Spirit**, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. (9) Let us not become weary in **doing good**, for at the proper time **we will reap a harvest of blessing** if we do not give up. NLT

Therefore we have this **strong admonition**:

1 John 2:15-17 **Do not love the world nor the things in the world.** If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. (17) **The world is passing away**, and also its lusts; but **the one who does the will of God** lives forever.

It would be good if we all had the ambition of the Apostle Paul:

2 Corinthians 5:9-11 Therefore we also have as **our ambition**, whether at home or absent, **to be pleasing to Him.** (10) For **we must** all appear before the **judgment seat of Christ**, so that each one may receive for his **deeds in the body**, according to what he has **done**, whether good or bad.

- This is one appointment we cannot avoid: the Judgment Seat of Christ

## Being a Good Witness is Pleasing to our LORD JESUS CHRIST

David's prayer shows he understood this and he was exceedingly blessed:

Psalms 67:1-2,7 God be **gracious to us** and **bless us**, and cause Your **face to shine upon us** (Why?) (2) **That Your way may be known** on the earth, Your **salvation** among all nations. (7) **God blesses us, SO THAT all the ends of the earth may fear Him.**

- The more we give ourselves to making “His ways” and “His salvation” (what He accomplished on the Cross by His shed Blood) known the more He will bless us to enable us to do more.
- As Christians we have been given a mission to accomplish here on earth. Jesus said: *as the Father has sent Me, I also send you* (John 20:21) to finish the work He began. *For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.* (Luke 19:10) Read Luke 15:3-7

**This is what pleases Him** – that we live a RIGHTEOUS life as a good example and witness to others and LOVE what HE loves - PEOPLE.

**Accomplishing His work, as His Ambassadors pleases Him.**

The Lord first chose Abraham, and his people Israel, to be His witness to the nations, to take the wonderful message of the gospel to all peoples. (Galatians 3:8)

Abram was living in a very **idolatrous and pagan culture** in Ur of the Chaldeans (Genesis 11:28). To be the LORD’s witness he was **called out of the CULTURE he was living in** to learn the **ways** of the LORD that are **pleasing** to HIM.

The LORD has called every believer out of the culture they were living in.

- Genesis 12:1-4 The Lord said to Abram, **“Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you; (2) And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great** (give you favor with others); **and so you shall be a blessing; (3) And I will bless those who bless you** (bless Israel and you will receive a blessing), **and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed”** (this was his mission: blessed to be a blessing. And, Jesus Christ came from the people of Abraham, a GREAT Blessing to *all the families of the earth*). **(4) So Abram went forth as the Lord had spoken to him.**

Abram **obeyed** and **left** the **pagan culture**, and the **Blessings began**:

- Genesis 13:2 Abram was **very rich** in livestock, in silver and in gold.

**Abraham** kept His commandments even when he did not understand and he was **Greatly Blessed**. The more he Obeyed – the more he was Blessed.

Genesis 22:12 Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, **now I know that you fear God**, since you have not **withheld** your son, your only son, from Me. (16) and said . . . because you have done this thing and have not **WITHHELD** your son, **indeed I will GREATLY bless you**

I encourage you – WITHHOLD NOTHING from HIM.

First and foremost that means YOURSELF.

**You have been bought with a price** (1 Cor.6:20) **Redeemed with precious Blood** (1Peter 1:18)

As “**children of Abraham**” (Romans 4:11-12) HE will also “**bless you so that you shall be a blessing**” **when** you respond and obey HIS call to **come out of the culture of the world**. The land HE will take you to is The Kingdom of God. There, the Blessings flow abundantly as we walk according to Kingdom ways.

However, as time went on, the nation from Abraham did not walk pleasingly before Him and for Him. And the LORD’s people found themselves **slaves in POVERTY and BONDAGE to a pagan culture**, Egypt.

- Do not let this happen to you!

And the LORD called them and took them out of that culture to **teach them** His ways and to **bless them**, making them His witnesses to the nations. However, they rebelled and wanted to return to the familiar CULTURE of this world’s system.

1 Corinthians 10:1-11 And with most of them God **was NOT well-pleased**; for they were laid low in the wilderness. (6) Now these things happened as **examples for us**, so that we would not **crave evil things** as they also craved. (7) Do not be **idolaters**, as some of them were; as it is written, The people sat down to **eat** and **drink**, and stood up to **play**. (8) Nor let us act **immorally**, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day.

(9) Nor let us **try the Lord**, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. (10) Nor **grumble**, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. (11) Now **these things happened to them as an example**, and they were **written for our instruction**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. (12) Therefore let him who **thinks he stands take heed** that he does not fall. (13) No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who **will not** allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation **will provide the way of escape** also, so that **you will be able to endure it**.

- This passage and the Old Testament along with the New, were written for us so that we could **learn from their mistakes**, from their sins and not our own.
- If you have a desire to “walk pleasingly before the LORD” and in His favor and blessings, then it is necessary that you read and understand the Old Testament also. I strongly encourage you to read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation in a year or less.
- The nation of Israel had been held in bondage as slaves in Egypt for 400 years. They were immersed in the **culture of Egypt** and that is all they knew. When the LORD brought them out they desperately **needed their minds renewed** (Romans 12:1) **to the culture of the Kingdom of God**, to the ways of the LORD. **To the ways that please Him and gain His favor and blessings.**
- This was so VERY Important that the LORD Himself wrote on Tablets of Stone the ten most important commandments for them to follow.
- This picture is true for us today. **We also** grow up and live in the **culture of this world’s system** and our minds are programmed to the world’s ways which we accept as normal and right. There is just one problem, the **various cultures of the world** are **all** under and by *“the prince of this world,”* satan.
  - 1 John 5:19 **the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.**
  - Ephesians 2:1-4 **And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, (2) in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. (3) Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.**

- The words of JESUS to Peter show that this world's thinking, for the most part, is strongly influenced by satan.

Matthew 16:23 He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; **for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's.**"

Peter was saying - do not give your life or suffer for others. His thinking was self-centered - save yourself not others.

Matthew 16:24-25 If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must **deny himself**, and take up **his cross** and **follow Me**. <sup>25</sup> For whoever **wishes to save his life will lose it**; but **whoever loses his life for My sake will find it**.

- As long as we live by and accept "**the worlds ways**" we are **giving satan an open door** and his agenda is to "steal, kill and destroy" in whatever way he can (John 10:10). And **we fall short** of the **full Blessings** of the LORD in our life.
  - Just as the Trojans were deceived and rolled the "Trojan Horse" into their city full of Greek warriors, it seems many believers have done the same. Bringing the warriors, the demons of this world's system, right into their midst. Right into their home by accepting the ways of this world.
- As satan tempted JESUS he will also **tempt you**. However, as long as our **minds are programmed** to the "ways of the world" **he doesn't have to tempt us** as we blindly follow along his "broad" and easy path with everyone else, to pain, heartache, difficulties, poverty and problems of all kinds.
- Jesus said: Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is **wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction**, and there are many who enter through it. (14) For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are **few who find it**. (Matthew 7:13-14)
- Remember, JESUS **answered every temptation** by quoting a verse that contradicted satan's **rational** presentation of the **normal thinking of this world's ways**. We also need this ability to guide us in times of temptation.

- JESUS lived according to “the ways of the Kingdom of Heaven” and **so must we** if we want to “please the LORD” and live a blessed and prosperous life.
- We **desperately need our minds renewed** to the **culture of the Kingdom of Heaven** if we want to please Him.
- 2 Corinthians 6:13 I speak as to **children . . .** (14) **DO NOT be bound together** with unbelievers; for **what partnership** have righteousness and lawlessness, or **what fellowship** has light with darkness? (15) Or what **harmony** has Christ with Belial, (there will be no peace when the believer lives the world’s way) or what has a believer **in common** with an unbeliever? (16) Or what **agreement** has the temple of God with idols? For **we are the temple of the living God** (and the temple is made and created for worship and witness); just as God said, “**I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people** (Ex 29:45 Lev 26:12). (17) Therefore, **COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE,**” says the Lord. “**AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN;** (Isaiah 52:10-11) And **I will welcome you.** (18) “And I will be a Father to you, and you shall be **sons and daughters** to Me,” Says the Lord Almighty.
  - We **should not** act as sons and daughters of the world **but as** sons and daughters of our Heavenly FATHER and JESUS CHRIST.
- 2 Corinthians 7:1 Therefore, **having these promises,** beloved, let us **cleanse ourselves** from **all defilement** of flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness** (moral purity) **in the fear of God.**
- And, as Jeremiah said: **Do not learn the way of the nations, . . .** (3) For the **customs** of the peoples are delusions (worthless, empty, vain). Jeremiah 10:1-3

Leviticus 18:1-4 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, (2) “Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘I am the Lord your God. (3) **You shall not do what is done in the land of Egypt where you lived,** nor are you to do what is done in the land of **Canaan** where I am bringing you; **you shall not walk in their ways.** (4) **You are to perform** My judgments and **keep** My statutes, **to live in accord with them;** I am the Lord your God.

In **Leviticus 18:6-30** the LORD speaks in explicit detail about all kinds of **sexual abominations** which are absolutely forbidden. You should read these passages. The concluding verses are:



Leviticus 18:24-30 **Do not defile yourselves by any of these things**; for by all these **the nations** which I am casting out before you **have become defiled**. (25) For **the land has become defiled**, therefore **I have brought its punishment upon it**, so the land has spewed out its inhabitants.

(26) But as for you, **you are to keep My statutes and My judgments** and **shall not do any of these abominations**, . . . (28) **so that the land will not spew you out**, as it has spewed out the nation which has been before you.

- Nation after nation throughout the centuries have fallen because of immorality.
- I heard a man say: "*What one generation accepts in moderation, the next generation accepts in excess.*" Bill Gothard
- It appears to me this is what is happening in the United States today.

(29) For whoever does any of these **abominations**, those persons who do so shall be **cut off** from among their people.

- **This expresses the seriousness of these abominations.** Cut off from "*among the people*" **not from the LORD**. They are no longer to be among the people of the LORD **because** they are no longer a witness of righteousness but a false and wrong witness as to who the LORD is. The world calls Christians living this way: **hypocrites**.
  - A New Testament example of this is 1Cor.5:1-13

(18:30) Thus **you are to keep My charge**, that you **do not practice** any of the abominable customs which have been practiced before you, so as not to **defile yourselves** with them; I am the Lord your God.

**Leviticus 19** Brings out some very important issues the LORD addressed when they first came out of Egypt which we **MUST** be aware of if **we desire** the **favor and blessings** of the LORD.

(1) Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: (2) Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, '**You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.**

- To be holy means: living a life separated out of the culture of the world and unto the LORD. As HIS Ambassadors.

(3) Every one of you shall **reverence his mother and his father**

(4) **Do not turn to idols**

Colossians 3:5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and **greed, which amounts to idolatry.**

(11) **You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie** to one another. (12) You shall not **swear falsely by My name**, so as to profane the name of your God; I am the Lord.

- We represent HIM, His Name. Whenever we **do not** keep our word we profane His Name and ours. And we fail at our calling and mission of being His Witness. And, we give the devil an open door (Eph.4: 25-32)

(13) Do not **defraud** or **rob** your neighbor. Do not make your hired workers wait until the next day to receive their pay.

(14) Do not **insult** the **deaf** or cause the **blind** to **stumble**. You must **fear** your God; I am the Lord.

- To "fear the LORD" is to have a deep, reverential fear or respect.

(15) Do not **twist justice** in legal matters **by favoring the poor** or **being partial to the rich** and powerful. Always judge people fairly.

- If ever justice was twisted it is being done so today in the United States. Even the Constitution has had its meaning twisted.
- John 7:24 Do not judge according to **appearance**, but judge with **righteous judgment.**

(16) Do not spread slanderous **gossip** among your people. **Do not stand idly by when your neighbor's life is threatened.** I am the Lord.

(17) **Do not nurse hatred in your heart** for any brother. **Confront people directly so you will not be held guilty for their sin.**

- 1 John 2:9-11 The one who says he is in the Light and yet **hates his brother** is in the **darkness** until now. (10) The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. (11) But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.
- We each have a responsibility to "**speak the truth in love**" (Eph.4:15) and confront those who are making wrong and sinful choices.

- Galatians 6:1-2 if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, **restore** such a one in a spirit of **gentleness**; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

Back to Leviticus 19:

(18) Do not seek **revenge** or bear a **grudge**, but **love** your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

- 1 Peter 3:9-12 **Do not repay** evil with evil or insult with insult, but with **blessing**, because **to this you were called SO THAT you may inherit a blessing**. (10) For, "**Whoever** would **love life** and see **good days** must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. (11) He **must turn** from evil and **do good**; he **must** seek **peace** and pursue it. (12) For the **eyes of the Lord** are **on the righteous** and **His ears** are **attentive to their prayer**, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." (Psalm 34:12-16)

(28) You shall not make any cuts in your body for the dead nor make any **tattoo marks on yourselves**: I am the Lord.

- Such cuttings and markings were associated with pagan cults. And is carried on profusely in the Hinduism of India and elsewhere.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Or do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and that **you are not your own**? (20) For you have been **bought with a price**: therefore **glorify God in your body**.

Leviticus 19:31 Do not turn to mediums or spiritists; do not seek them out to be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 19:32 You shall rise up before the gray headed and honor the aged, and you shall revere your God; I am the Lord.

Leviticus 20:23 **Moreover, you SHALL NOT FOLLOW THE CUSTOMS of the nation which I will drive out before you, for they did all these things, and therefore I have abhorred them.**

20:24-25 I am the LORD your GOD, who has **separated you from the peoples**. (25) You are therefore to **make a distinction** between the clean and the unclean. (26) Thus **you are to be holy to Me**, for I the LORD am holy; and **I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine**.

Hallelujah ! Thank You LORD JESUS.

For a True Believer - any of us - having committed any of these or others sins, **it is not a matter of eternal life**. Eternal Life is a FREE Gift to everyone who believes and receives Jesus Christ.

It is a matter of "**Pleasing the LORD**" and not giving satan an open door.

- Romans 4:6-8 David also speaks of **the blessing** on the man to whom God **credits righteousness apart from works**. (7) **Blessed** are those whose lawless deeds **have been forgiven**, and **whose sins have been covered**. (8) **Blessed** is the man whose **sin** the Lord **will not take into account**.

Any sin or sins that we have committed we **MUST** (1) **stop** doing that and **turn away from it** and (2) **confess that sin** or sins to our Heavenly FATHER and LORD JESUS CHRIST.

- 1 John 1:9-10 If we **confess our sins**, He is faithful and righteous to **forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness**. (10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

---

There is a multitude of Scriptures that speak of **the many Blessings** that come to the **person walking pleasingly before the LORD**.

Hebrews 13:20-21 Now the God of peace, . . . even JESUS our Lord, (21) **equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT**, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

1 John 3:22 whatever we **ask we receive** from Him, **because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight**.

Joshua 1:7-9 Only **be strong and very courageous**; be **careful to do** according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; **do not turn** from it to the right or to the left, **so that you may have success** wherever you go. (8) This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall **meditate on it** day and night, **so that you may be careful to do** according to **all** that is written in it; for **then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success**.

**Abraham's Blessings:** Deuteronomy 28 . . . (2) **All these blessings** will come upon you and overtake you **if you obey** the Lord your God:

- **All of the Blessings** of Abraham also belong to **those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all**, (Romans 4:16-17)
- **The curses** of Deuteronomy 27:15-26 come upon us when we **prefer** and **choose** to live according to **the ways of this world**, a culture designed by "the evil one" to "kill, steal and destroy."

**As the young man Moses did, so must we:**

Hebrews 11:25-28 . . . **choosing** rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the **passing** pleasures of sin, (26) considering the **reproach** (criticism or rejection) **of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt**; for **he was looking to THE REWARD**. (27) **By faith he left Egypt**, (that culture and its ways) not fearing the wrath of the king (a type of satan); for he **endured**, as seeing Him who is unseen.

**As Joshua did we must also make a decision:**

**Choose for yourselves today whom you will serve:** whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, the gods in whose land you are living; **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD**. Joshua 24:15

**As Abraham did we should also:**

Hebrews 11:9-11 By faith he **lived as an alien in the land of promise**, as in a foreign land, . . . (10) **for he was looking for the city** which has **foundations**, whose **architect and builder is God**.

**As our examples of how to live in a foreign culture:**

Hebrews 11:13-16 All these died in faith, without receiving **the promises**, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and **having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth**.

(14) For **those who say such things** make it clear that **they are seeking a country of their own**. (15) And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. (just as believers do today) (16) But as it is, **they desire a better country**, that is, **a heavenly one**. **Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them**.

Philippians 3:17-20 Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. (18) For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are **enemies** of the cross of Christ, (19) whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. (20) For **our citizenship is in heaven**, from which also **we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ**.

Therefore we also have as **our ambition**, . . . to live in such a way so as

**to be pleasing to Him.** (2 Corinthians 5:9)

James 1:22 Prove yourselves **doers of the word**, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. . . . (25) But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, . . . **this man will be blessed in what he does.**

3 John 2 Beloved, **I pray** that in all respects **you may prosper and be in good health**, just as your soul prospers.