

CCF 37TH: TRUE BLESSING IS NOT ABOUT US!

AUGUST 29, 2021

WORSHIP

Great God,
Lord of All Creation,
Crown Him with
Many Crowns,
Christ Be Magnified

WELCOME

In what way has the
CCF church family been
God's blessing to you?

WORD

PSALM 67

God be gracious to us and bless us, And cause His face to shine upon us—Selah. ² That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations. ³ Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. ⁴ Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; For You will judge the peoples with uprightness And guide the nations on the earth. Selah. ⁵ Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. ⁶ The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us. ⁷ God blesses us, That all the ends of the earth may fear Him.

As we celebrate our 37th Anniversary, we are reminded that our celebration must always be God-centered. He deserves all glory because He is the One causing CCF to grow, even during the pandemic, to fulfill the Great Commission. Today, this movement has become borderless, and this is all God's doing – out of His love for the world (**John 3:16**). The work has just begun, there are still billions of people who need to hear the gospel. Let us continue to be faithful, accomplishing God's agenda, for God's glory!

Let's take a look at **Psalm 67**, which begins and ends with blessing. We must understand blessing with these three main truths:

1. GOD WANTS TO BLESS US

God's desire is to bless us (**v.1**) – all blessings begin from the grace of God – undeserved, not dependent on our qualifications. It is perfectly okay to ask for His blessing. These are not all material blessings, but more than that; it is the favor of God, His presence, and approval. God's smile is the greatest blessing. To know that He is pleased with the life we live here on earth is indeed something to be joyful and excited about! The most important Person to please is the Lord. It does not matter if the world applauds you if God is not happy with how you live. In **2 Corinthians 5:8-10**, Paul emphasizes this truth. He knew that one day he will be in God's presence, therefore he must live a life pleasing to God today. Paul also mentions "judgment day", and that is why he does his best to please God. At the end of life, the greatest blessing is God's smile, affirming that you have lived well for Him. At the end of your life, these are realities: you can't bring money, material things, hobbies, prestige – there's nothing you can take with you except your relationship with your Savior. Are you living a life pleasing to Him?

2. GOD BLESSES US TO BLESS OTHERS

Blessings are not meant to be kept; they are to be shared! The purpose of blessing is to bless all the nations (**v.2**). What kind of blessing? That His way be known so they can be pleasing to Him. At the end of your life, the most important thing is salvation. Are our lives able to attract others toward Jesus? In this pandemic, a lot of people are anxious, scared, and desperate for hope. Do we show others the peace that we have in Christ? Do we talk about the hope in Jesus by sharing the gospel and using every opportunity to bless others? To be a blessing to others, we must be intentional (**v.4**). We must tell people the truth that the Lord is coming again! His return is good news only if we are prepared. He is coming as JUDGE and RULER, governing the nations.

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Ezekiel 33:7-9 calls followers of God, “watchmen” – responsible for telling others of God’s message and warnings. The metaphor brings out the importance of responsibility. If we don’t warn others by telling them of God’s standards, God’s return, and God’s judgment, they will certainly receive punishment for their iniquities. God’s desire is clearly for all people to repent, and repentance is a personal responsibility. However, for those of us living in the Truth, our responsibility is to tell others and share the blessing of God’s love and the salvation that we have in Jesus Christ. When we accomplish this, whatever they decide on, we shall be “innocent of the blood” of people (**Acts 20:26-27**). Our job is not to force people to repent and listen, but to be faithful in speaking truth that leads to repentance. **Ezekiel 33:15-16** promises complete forgiveness for those who will repent and commit lives to God (**Hebrews 10:17**). Repentance is the key to blessing! The grace of God is not a license to commit sin (**Jude 4**). The Apostle Paul described in **Galatians 5:19-21**, how we cannot practice sin while we claim to follow Jesus. God does not take pleasure in the death wicked people, but desires that they will turn and repent (**Ezekiel 33:11**). It is echoed in **2 Peter 3:9** – God desires everyone to repent, as emphasized throughout Scripture (**Mark 1:14-15, Luke 24:46-47, Acts 26:19-20**). Repentance is different from regret or remorse – it affects the mind, heart, and will. It is a change of direction (Gk. metanoia). There’s a kind of sorrow that does not lead to repentance (**2. Corinthians 7:9-10**) – remember how Judas and Peter differed in their response to their guilt? May we, and the people we share the gospel to truly draw near to God. He is ever-forgiving, and able to change us inside-out! Real blessing comes when we repent. As Thomas Carlyle puts it, “Of all acts of man repentance is the most divine. The greatest of all faults is to be conscious of none”.

3. GOD’S BLESSING LEADS TO WORSHIP

Psalms 67 closes with the circle of blessing going wider – involving all people (**vv.5-7**)! Everything God does in our lives is ultimately to bless us – sometimes, it comes as trials and difficult circumstances... but once we respond in faith, God turns these things to blessings that will ultimately give honor and glory to Him. God’s blessing may not be material things, but more than that—to be His instrument for others to come to know Him!

Worship is the proper response to who God is – what He has done, and what He will do. The moment we experience the true blessing of God’s forgiveness, through Jesus’ death on the cross for the complete payment of our sins, it will truly transform our hearts and lead us to worship Him. May we all desire for more and more people to know Him, and worship Him in the way He truly deserves. After all, true worship is NOT ABOUT US – it’s about HIM. May He be truly glorified as we worship Him with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Self-Check

In what ways have you experienced God’s blessings? How can you share these with others?

2. Setting It Right

Is there anything you need to repent of so that you can truly worship God?

3. Living It Out

How can you practice being a faithful watchman within your family, workplace, school, etc?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people of all nations to know Christ. Share your material blessings to someone who is in need or to a ministry dedicated to helping others know Christ. Be a watchman ready to warn people of the consequence of living apart from God. Share the blessing of forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life through Jesus.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

Upright and moral governance of Public Servants
A God-centered Philippines
Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

Worship and Training Center
Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

Deeper intimate relationship with God
Righteous living
Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

Psalms 67:1-2

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