



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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BLESSINGS



WE'VE JUST FINISHED THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY WEEKEND WITH ALL OF ITS FOOTBALL, FAMILY AND FEASTS. I HOPE WE'VE THOUGHT TOO ABOUT GOD'S FAVOR AND COUNTED OUR BLESSINGS AS WELL. AN AWARENESS OF GOD'S BLESSINGS SHOULD SURROUND OUR THANKSGIVING CELEBRATIONS BUT ALSO BE A PART OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AS WELL.

CONSIDER THE REALITY OF GOD'S BLESSINGS AS THEY APPEAR IN LUKE 1 JUST BEFORE THAT FIRST CHRISTMAS.

FIRST OF ALL NOTE ELIZABETH'S BLESSING IN LUKE 1:45. WHEN SPEAKING TO HER COUSIN MARY WHO HAD JUST COME TO VISIT, SHE EXCLAIMS "BLESSED IS SHE THAT BELIEVED: FOR THERE SHALL BE A PERFORMANCE OF THOSE THINGS WHICH WERE TOLD HER FROM THE LORD." ELIZABETH BLESSED MARY FOR BELIEVING THAT SHE WOULD BIRTH THE CHRIST-CHILD JUST AS GOD SAID. DO WE BLESS GOD WHEN WE SEE THE FAITH OF THOSE AROUND US?

MARY'S MAGNIFICAT IS FOUND IN LUKE 1:46-55. HERE MARY BLESSES, EXALTS AND MAGNIFIES THE LORD FOR HIS MIGHT AND MERCY. SHE WORSHIPS THE MIGHTY AND HOLY ONE WHO HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR HER (V. 49) AND ADORES HIM WHO HAS DONE MIGHTY DEEDS WITH HIS ARMS (V. 51). SHE PRAISES GOD HER SAVIOR FOR "HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM." (V. 50). OH, THAT WE WOULD BE MINDFUL OF A MIGHTY AND MERCIFUL GOD THIS CHRISTMAS!

AT THE END OF LUKE 1 WE HAVE ZACHARIAS' PRAYER THAT BEGINS "BLESSED BE THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL, FOR HE HAS VISITED US AND ACCOMPLISHED REDEMPTION FOR HIS PEOPLE." (V. 68). ZACHARIAS OFFERS BLESSINGS TO GOD FOR HIS REDEMPTION. AS HIS PRAYER PROGRESSES, HE POINTS OUT THAT GOD REMEMBERS HIS COVENANT (V. 72) AND GRANTS RESCUE FROM THE HANDS OF ENEMIES (V. 74). BUT MOST SIGNIFICANTLY HE KNOWS THAT HIS SON, JOHN THE BAPTIST, WILL BE THE FORERUNNER OF CHRIST WHO WILL "GIVE TO HIS PEOPLE THE KNOWLEDGE OF SALVATION BY THE FORGIVENESS OF THEIR SINS." (V. 77). WE TOO MUST COMMIT TO BLESSING THE REDEEMING CHRIST THIS CHRISTMAS.

THIS CHRISTMAS LET US BLESS GOD OUR SAVIOR (V. 47), THE MIGHTY ONE (V. 49), THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL (V. 68), THE MOST HIGH (V. 76), THE SUNRISE FROM ON HIGH (V. 78). HE ALONE MUST BE THE OBJECT OF OUR AFFECTION AND ADORATION.

LOOKING UP!

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE