

FAMILY BLESSINGS

A sermon by Rev. R. V. Gibbs, Pastor in Morgantown, Kentucky

Today I would like to speak to you about family blessings. The scripture lesson is found in Psalm 128; "Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways. For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee. Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord. The Lord shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life. Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel."

Of all the things that God has intrusted us with, the most valuable of all is the building of a Christian home. A home where love is mutual between husband and wife and God is given first place in all decisions that are made. A home where children are considered a sacred trust that God has given us.

In these days when the murdering of children by abortion is considered a mother's right. We need to realize that the caring and rearing of children is a sacred trust and that God's blessings will flow to the mother and father that will honor the principles given them in His Holy Word.

The future of the world lies in the hands of the mothers and fathers of today. If we as parents live for God and righteousness God will bless us. Psalm 127 says, "Except the Lord build the house they labour in vain that build it...." Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.

There is at the marriage altar when vows are exchanged and sacred trusts are made a peculiar loveliness and radiant light upon the countenance of two lives united together that helps us to realize anew that God is love and he wants to bless the family and home. Also in my own experience when the first child was born, there was a renewed love my wife and I had for each other as we held in our arms the new life God had given us. This was true also when each one of our four children were born. When our last child was born my wife was in danger and I spent a sleepless night. In the morning light I thanked God that he had spared her life and given us another child to bless our home.

Jesus warned against despising children in Matthew 18:10, "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven." I have a picture at home of a beautiful angel watching over a sleeping child. There is another picture I have seen of two children, a boy and a girl crossing a deep canyon on a little foot bridge, the bridge is old and some of the boards are gone. It is getting dark and the children are going hand in hand across, seemingly unaware of the danger, but just above them is a guardian angel to guide them safely across. The scripture I just read says beware that you despise not one of these little ones. If God is so concerned about their welfare that he delegates angels to watch over them, just think how blessed we are for God to place them in our hands, what a sacred trust. How we should be careful to fulfill our mission to teach them in right ways. Proverbs 22:6 says "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Jesus warned against turning a child away from God. Matthew 18:6. "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

We as parents have the responsibility of providing for the needs of our children; physically, mentally, and spiritually. We can provide for them the guidance and instruction to make them a success or a failure; happiness or misery; heaven or hell. What a blessed privilege we enjoy of rearing our children in the ways of Godliness and holiness.

The scripture lesson says, you will be blessed. Proverbs 17:6 says, "Children's children are the crown of old men, and the glory of children are their fathers." A christian father and mother are honored by their children, and the grandchildren are the delight of the grandparents.

God's way is a blessed way, God's way is the right way. If we take His way our children and our grandchildren will rise up and call us blessed, but if we fail to walk in God's way there will be a day when our children will curse us; As Joshua said to the children of Israel I set before you a blessing or a curse. If you follow God blessing will come, if you follow not God's way cursing will come. This basic principle still holds true today. Which way will you take?

Isaiah prophesied of Jesus. 40:11. "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young." Here we see the picture of Jesus love for the family. May we as parents realize the love and tender care Jesus has for us and our children. If we will heed his call, listen to his voice and follow him, he will lead our family along the uneven journey of life to a home in heaven where we can be as my mother used to pray, "An unbroken family around his throne."

After your heart is hushed and still,
After the death-dews, damp and chill,
Over your frame of mortality thrill,
Careless soul, what then?
Wfter your heart is hushed and still,
Careless soul, what then?

After the trumpet's awful blast,
After the judgment shall be past,
When you have come to your doom at last,
Poor, lost soul, what then?
When you have come to your doom at last,
Poor, lost soul, what then?

Let us pray, Dear Lord we look to you in behalf of everyone that is listening today, If there is one soul that is not ready to meet you, we pray right now they will heed your call and seek you with all their heart and be saved for we know your word is true, and we are glad you have said Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. We know that now is the accepted time and today is the day of salvation. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

WLB 8 Little is much if God is in it.
Tuesday June 30, 1981 June 9, 1983
Somewhere I saw the words "little
is much if God is in it." I am
thinking of a ~~verse~~^{Passage} of scripture found
in 2 Kings 4:1-7. "A poor handmaid both
not anything in the house, save a pot
of oil." This woman was in a desperate
situation, a widow who was in debt
and had no one to defend her. The creditors
had come to claim her two sons.
God took what she had, and multiplied
it as she followed the prophet Elisha's
instructions, and she was able to pay
her debt.

a little oil and a handful of meal
provided food for another widow, her
son and Elijah for a whole year
a little captive maid of Israel
brought the message of healing to
a great military hero Gideon who
had leprosy.

a shepherd lad David took a sling
and a stone and brought deliverance
to a whole nation when he killed
the giant Goliath.

Fine barley loaves and two small fishes from a boy's lunch, Jesus took and provided for five thousand people.

Gideon's army of 300 put to flight an army that outnumbered them 100 to 1.

A rod in the hand of Moses became a symbol of victory for the Children of Israel. When Moses ~~helped~~ held it up, they were able to cross the Red sea on dry land. When they needed water to drink in the desert Moses smote the rock with the rod and water came forth. When they went out to battle against their enemy Moses held up the rod and they overcome their enemy but when his arm got tired and he let the rod down the enemy began to overcome them.

Jesus said, Fear not little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

The King of Kings, was a babe in Bethlehem.

The mild blood of martyrs became the seed of the church. 3

Jesus takes notice of small things especially if it is the best or all that you have. He noticed the poor widow in the temple who put only two mites in the treasury. There were others who put in much more, but they were rich. Jesus said she put in more than all the rest because she put in all that she had.

I think often times we overlook the little things while we are waiting to do great things for God.

I am thinking of a woman back home who was a fine sincere Christian. She said the Lord had called her to be a missionary. The door had opened for her to go yet. When a mother in our community died leaving several small children and a husband who was a hard working Christian.

former. He was good, but seemed to know very little about caring for the children, as a result they were often ragged and dirty. After about a year of struggle to care for his family Mr Andy asked the missionary lady to marry him. She finally consented and began her missionary work right there in that home. My what a difference her presence made. She cleaned that house, cleaned up the children and you should have seen them as they sat together in the little County church. She helped the children to get to school and one boy became valedictorian of the High School. She never made it to a foreign mission field but she did what she could and God blessed.

A year ago last summer I read the book Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe.

If you have never read that book 5
you have missed some very rich spiritual
teaching. Uncle Tom, a slave did what
he could as a faithful Christian to win
others to the Lord. In the first part
of the book he was having services in
his little cabin for the other slaves.
Later he was sold and separated from
his wife and family. His new master
liked him very much and offered to
make out papers to make him a free
man. Uncle Tom longed to be free
but one thing he wanted more
than that and that was to see
his master become a Christian so
he said to him. I want to be
a free man but I want to see
you saved first. Soon after his
master was stabbed in town
and they brought him home to
die. He called for Uncle Tom
~~and~~^{and} talked to him
He stayed with him and held
about how to be saved and held
his hand until the light of
heaven broke through to his soul.

after he died uncle Tom was sold to the most cruel heartless master that you could imagine. Uncle Tom was always trying to help his fellows sufferers, life was so hard but he took the little he had and it became much in the hand of the Saviour.

What do you have to give, whether it is little or much. Don't hold back but ~~use~~ give what you have for the masters use.

Only one life twill soon be passed, only what's done for Christ will last.

In closing this morning you will hear my oldest son Warren and his wife Becky sing, I believe they will be a blessing to you.

This is Pastor R.V. Gibbs of the Morgantown Wesleyan Church. Another month has rolled around and we are coming to you again this 3rd Sunday in January 1982. We are only on once a month so it may be hard to remember when to tune in. Just remember its always the 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:PM.

We have 2 young ladies who are going to sing for you today. Mrs. Mary Baize and Mrs Juanita Gibbs. I'm sure they will be a blessing to you.

Announce songs:

In case you are listening today for the first time, or are new in Butler County we want to extend to you a warm welcome to our Church. It is located on Logansport Road between Houchens market and the Branch Bank. Services on Sunday are Sundayshhool at 10 A M Preaching at 11 Evening youth service at 6:P.M. Preaching at 6:30. Wed. is prayer meeting at 7:PM. For more information please call 526-3624. We hope you will come and visit us

I would like to speak to you on the topic; "Why settle for less."

ONED
He owed some bills, debts that had hung over him for some time, He could not pay them all, but he went to his creditors with a proposition, if they would mark his account "Paid in Full" he would give each one half of what was due him. Would they settle for that? Most of them agreed. Better to get half a bad debt than nothing at all. They glumly accepted the partial payment for the whole.

Maybe, under the circumstances. these businessman handled a difficult situation wisely. (this happened in depression days.) yet in the spiritual realm it is never necessary to devalue God's promises. He is able to pay in full! To settle for less shaows a lack of earnestness and faith.

A young man making good money as a salesman found his job standing in the way when he sought the Lord for salvation. He'd been selling bar fixtures to liquor joints.

Friends advised him to keep on with the job, since he needed it to support his family, work was had to get. The young man tried to keep selling bar fixtures and be a Christian, but his religion wasn't real. He was settling for a troubled, uneasy experience that fell far short of the "no condemnation" victory promised in the Bible. Not until he gave up that profitable but polluted work did he find real salvation. Full heart satisfaction becomes a personal experience for the one who refuses to settle for less.

In the early days of our country a young man was expelled from college for making the statement that one of his professors had no religion. The charge may have been true, and enyhow. David Brainerd apologized for his bluntness and requested re-admission; but he was finished at that school. Acollege education meant much to David. For how could he fulfull his call to preach without it?

He went to the only fold willing to listen to a man without a college degree - the Indians.

Preaching to the unresponsive red men was difficult and discouraging. Of course, it paid nothing, in money. It meant putting off indinfinitely marriage to a charming girl. It drove the boy to long hours of desperate praying in the cold. damp forests for God's anointing on his ministry.

His forest-dwelling listeners were moved, in time, to tears, by the earnest young minister's appeal. That the stolid savages coulnd be made to weep over their sins was almost unbelievable. He refused, however,

*to be content with this minor victory.
He would not stop short of seeing the indians
actually come to Christ. and by and by,
they did.*

David Brainerd's power as a preacher began to be known. Calls came to Leone

the woods, and fill important pulpits.
He might have accepted, plied money
enjoyed prosperity and honor. It cost Brown
his life to stay with the Indians, for he
died at twenty-nine; but he saw renewal
among the red men of the Sioux, soothed
pests.

If you are settling for less than
God has for you, why not change
and let God use you to help in
the great field of service He has
for you. I don't know what
He is calling you to do, there
may be something you are doing
that you know is wrong but
you have hesitated to give it up.
You must not continue on and
on and not have God's best.
Say a final yes to Him, just let
go and let God have His way.
Let us pray, Dear Lord, as we
come to the close of this broadcast
may thy Holy Spirit speak to hearts
that are heavy, may they listen to thy
call. Come unto me all ye that are
weary and are heavy laden and I will
give you rest, take my Yoke upon you

and fears of me for I am meek
and lowly in heart and ye shall
find rest unto your souls.
In Jesus name we pray, amen.

With love and care for you all I
would say thank you and bid you
well all thoughts of love and the
blessed word comfort you
with it at last will it go
find no rest until it from
this world is gone off both
spirit and body I have no
good intentions for you all but
to tell them what I have no
ill will with the exception of
you all who have been so
kind to us all and to you all
it is with great pain and trouble
that I have to say this and I do
not know what to say more

The House of God - Bethel

Goodmorning, this is R. V. Bibbs again coming to you on this Tuesday morning, Yesterday, I spoke to you about Enoch and the Walk that Pleases God. Today I want to refer to another Old Testament character named Jacob and a place called Bethel which he called the house of God.

The scripture lesson is found in Genesis 28:16-19 " And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not. and he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. And Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar and pored oil upon the top of it. And he called the name of that place Bethel."

The transformation of Jacob is an interesting study. He is portrayed as a scheming, grasping, overreaching man; but Jehovah becomes the God of Jacob, and later we read the remarkable record, "He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel." There had been injustice, wrong, and iniquity; but mercy had washed it away, and "Blessed is the man to whom the Lord imputeth not sin." Jacob's first revelation of God came to him at Bethel where he tarried all night. The Lord appeared to him in a dream, he saw the ladder of salvation. It was set up on the earth and reached all the way to Heaven. Human ladders of morality, formality and self-righteousness are all too short; these man-made ladders reach no further than the tomb, whereas the ladder that Jacob saw reached all the way to God. The angels of God were ascending and descending upon it, proving the ministry of angels. They are sent to minister to them who are heirs of salvation.

It was at Bethel that the Lord gave Jacob the sevenfold promise of blessing, temporal and spiritual, embracing protection and salvation which would be world-wide. When he awoke out of his sleep he confessed, "The Lord is in this place, and I knew it not." He was afraid, and went on to say, "How dreadful is this place!" Conviction always precedes salvation, fear takes hold of a truly convicted soul. We need more real conviction in our meetings today, in which sin becomes exceeding sinful, and where there are more tears of repentance, more agony over the guilt of sin. The popular idea is so shallow that there is a danger of glossing over the past; it has become a change of mind rather than a change of heart. True repentance is a change of nature. This revelation of God at Bethel made Jacob a different man, and this experience corresponds with the New Testament regeneration. This is clearly proved by his testimony and life. "This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." The house of God is the place where God resides; it is not necessarily bricks and stone, but the place where the soul meets God. The ladder of salvation reached to the gate of Heaven; this is exactly opposite to the gate of Hell. "And Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone of witness, and poured oil upon the top of it." That was a remarkable morning - could he ever forget it? How many of us can look back to that memorable morning after our sins had been forgiven the night before; the morning when everything had become new, and we took the stones of witness, and told out of a full heart that Jesus had become our Savior. We poured oil upon the top of the stone, and the Holy Spirit whispered, "You are born of God." "And he called the name of the place Bethel." Have you a hallowed spot somewhere that you call "Bethel"?

I remember so well the little county school house called Nesbit where I met God. I was about 11 years old, a revival was going on there and one night when the invitation was given, God spoke to me and I went forward and found God, He gave me pardon for all my sins. He gave me peace in place of fear and dread. He started me on the road of happiness. That night that little school house became to me the house of God.

Perhaps someone is listening to me today who remembers with joy and pleasure the place where you met God and he made you His child. You remember the vows you made. Jacob made a vow that if the Lord would bless and protect him he would surely give a tenth of all he possessed.

Every child of God should be careful in paying the tenth to the Lord, and should also be faithful in his love-offerings to the Lord. There is a danger of being lax in the testimony meetings and being lax in giving. and then wondering why "The caterpillars have come to eat up the fruit." "The tithe is the Lord's," but the offerings must be given as he hathpurposed in his heart, "not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver."

Perhaps someone is listening who has wondered away from the vows you made when you found God. Not only in yourgiving to Him but in other things that God showed you were so important. Your peace has gone, the joy that once you had is now merely a memory, Saton has robbed you, sin has bound you, and conscience smites you. Why not arise and go up to Bethel, and make there an altar unto God who appeared to thee in the day when you were converted?

Let us Pray.

Dear Lord, as we come to the close of this broadcast we wish we could see those who are listening. But we know you can. and your spirit is faithful to talk to every heart who is willing to listen. we pray for those who have walked with you many years, encourage them to keep true and faithful. then we pray for ~~that one~~ ^{those} who have gone away from you, broken vows and heartaches plague them, may they renew their covenant today. In Jesus name we Pray, Amen.