



From Where I Sit . . .

“Blessings & Responsibilities Of Being A Christian ”

Every person has some big events in life, though these might vary from person to person. Examples are: birth, graduation, landing a good job, marriage, children, and don't forget, having grand children! But the most important event for anyone is becoming a Christian! Why so? Because it affects each of us for all ETERNITY.

Unfortunately, many people become Christians and do not really appreciate what it should mean to them until late in life. Some never really catch on. Our service for Christ would be more productive and infinitely more enjoyable if we began to grasp the true significance of being Christians, and as such, the children of God. Let's summarize just a few of the blessings and responsibilities we have as Christians.

Consider the blessing of having God as our Father...1 John 3:1. He is the source of every good and perfect gift from above according to **James 1:17; Mt 7:11**. He provides us comfort in all our afflictions - **2 Cor 1:3-4**. He has promised never to forsake us - **He 13:5-6**.

Yet, there are responsibilities for having God as our Father. We certainly must **SUBMIT** to Him - **James 4:7**. We must also **DRAW NEAR** to God - **James 4:8**. Just as an earthly father delights when his children want to draw near to him, so does God - cf. **Mt 23:37**. We draw nearer to God by "cleansing our hands" and "purifying our hearts" - **James 4:8**.

Equally so, there are blessings and corresponding responsibilities as Christians in having Jesus Christ as our faithful High Priest - **Heb. 4:14**. Think for a moment about this blessing. He who is our "Lord" is also He who rules over the kings of the earth - **Rev. 1:5-6**. All have been made subject to Him, yet He calls us His "brethren!" - **Heb 2:11-12**. If He is truly our LORD, we must do what He says. We must be careful to observe what He taught. We must keep His commandments. We must also utilize His role as our HIGH PRIEST - **Heb 4:14-16**. In other words, come to God through Him to obtain mercy and find grace to help us in time of need.

One other special blessing we should be able to enjoy as Christians is that of having the Church as our family - **1 Tim. 3:15**. The members become like fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters to us, and in some cases may even replace physical relations we may lose when we become Christians - **Mk 10:28-30; Mt 12:46-50**. Yet here too we have **RESPONSIBILITIES** to one another. We are to "edify one another" - **Heb 10:24-25**. We are to "bear one another's burdens" - **Gal. 6:1-2**. This requires that we know each other well, and can be depended upon to provide support.

There are certainly many more blessings and responsibilities that we have as Christians. I hope that these suffice to impress upon us just how blessed we are as Christians – How important it is that we fulfill our responsibilities – to God, Christ, and to One Another. Don't take these for granted, or we may lose them!

. . . . Terry Broome