Ephesians 1:1-3

God’s Blessings and our Faithfulness

AS YOU KNOW WE HAVE BEEN FOCUSING UPON GOD’S BLESSINGS IN OUR LIFE……

BUT HIS BLESSINGS WILL BE PARTLY BASED UPON OUR FAITHFULNESS

It is true that God blessings all of us with good things – both the righteous and the wicked.

* **That is simply because God is a good God.**
* [**Romans 2:4 (ESV)**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/esv/romans/2-4.html) Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

# Jesus said Matthew 5:45 (NKJV) that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

We already have God’s blessing in our life to some degree.

**Lamentations 3:22-23(NKJV)**

22*Through* the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed,
Because His compassions fail not.
23*They are* new every morning;
Great *is* Your faithfulness.

IF YOU ARE STILL ON THIS SIDE OF ETERNITY… IT IS BECAUSE GOD HAS SEEN FIT TO GIVE YOU GRACE.

Listen to what the Psalmist wrote [Psalm 103:10](http://biblehub.com/psalms/103-10.htm)
he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

**Proverbs 28:20 (NKJV)**

20A faithful man will abound with blessings,
But he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished

Psa 101:6-7 *The Lord says, “My eyes shall be on the faithful of the land, That they may dwell with me; He who walks in a perfect way, He shall serve me.”*

*A faithful man will abound with blessings*

1. There are 2 types of blessings,

A. The Common blessings: Rain, Sunlight etc. Common to both sinner and righteous

B. Unique blessings: Both spiritual and physical. These blessings are abundant and only those who are faithful before God can receive this type of blessing.

Here in this letter Paul is speaking to those who are saints and are faithful

NEXT- this letter is

**ll. Directed to the Assembly of Believers**

Paul says this letter is

1. **To the saints –**

As I said last week…

Most of us would rule ourselves out at this point. (A Saint - I Aint)

But saints are people who struggle with problems in their families, problems at work, even emotional and spiritual problems. They're normal people like you and me.

But one thing is different about us: We are different in that we are set apart for God.

That is what saint means: someone who is set apart.

It is related to the word "sanctified"

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BUT HE ALSO USES THE WORD FAITHFUL ----

NOTICE THAT PAUL IS WRITING TO US IN TANDUM (or pairs of two)

He says to the **saints** who are **faithful** (He qualifies the Saints as those who are faithful)

He also says it is written to those who are **in Ephesus** and those who are **in Christ**.

Later in verse two, he speaks of a dual blessing in his greeting (**grace** and **peace)**

1. To the faithful

I have long said that God measures a man not by the size of his faith but by his faithfulness.

**Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-23(NKJV)**

21“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ (Great faith) 23And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

GOD WILL MEASURE OUR LIVES BY OUR FAITHFULNESS…

(Ezek 18:9) If he has walked in My statutes And kept My judgments faithfully; He is just; He shall surely live!” Says the Lord GOD.

IN HEAVEN (Rev 17:14) “He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”

The Greek meaning of this word means

* people who show themselves trustworthy in the transaction of business, the execution of commands, or the discharge of official duties
* someone that can be relied on…. We should ask ourselves the question. CAN GOD RELY UPON US?
* it also means, one who has become convinced that Jesus is the Messiah and author of salvation

It is translated as both [faithful](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=faithful*+G4103) (53x),and [believe](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=believe*+G4103)r (

THE FAITHFUL, IN THIS TEXT THEN ARE THOSE WHO HAVE PLACED THEIR TRUST IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST FOR SALVATION….

* IT IS THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BELIEVED THAT CHRIST COULD AND WOULD SAVE US
* IT IS THOSE WHO HAVE PLACE THEIR CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST AND HIS WORD
* IT IS THOSE WHO HAVE ENTRUSTED THEIR SALVATION INTO THE HANDS OF CHRIST
* IT IS THOSE WHO HAVE COMMITTED THEIR LIFE TO CHRIST.

Our faithfulness is displayed in our actions – how we live our lives…

Over and over again the bible speaks of the faithfulness of the saints.

* According to Rev. 17:14 faithfulness characteristic of saints
* EXHIBITED IN
	+ Our service of God

Matt. 25:21 teaches that it will be the standard whereby God measures us .. Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joys of our Lord.

* + We are to be faithful in declaring the word of God
	[Jeremiah 23:28](http://www.biblestudytools.com/jeremiah/23-28.html) “but let the one who has my word2 speak it faithfully.”

According to Luke 16:12 We are to be faithful in small matters as well are large matters. For this that is faithful in the less is also faithful in that which is greater.

* Should be to death
[Revelation 2:10](http://www.biblestudytools.com/revelation/2-10.html)

Illustration of dog - some people’s dog are more faithful to their master than some who profess Christianity.

FAITHFULNESS TO GOD BRINGS BLESSINGS…..

When we are faithful…..

* No one has to tell us to read God’s word
* No one has to tell us to do what is right
* Not one has to remind us to worship
* No one has to prompt us to give regularly to the work of God

When we are faithful

We serve gladly..

We worship passionately

We walk in unity

We envision great things for God

We involve our self in the work of the God

When we are faithful

We love the church

We pray often

We seek ways to bless others

**We love the truth** - Jesus said, “He who does the truth comes to the light…” (John 3:21).

We will honor and obey what the Lord says to do (John 14:15; Matt. 7:21; Luke 6:46).

**2 Timothy 2:1-2 Tells us Above all things be faithful**

We are living in a world of infidelity. Unfaithfulness is becoming a trademark of our day

Some are no longer faithful in their commitment to marriage. Some seem to marry only to get separated. (IT WAS INTENTED TO BE A LIFETIME COMMITMENT.)

Some are no longer faithful in their commitment to the house of God. (The Bible tells us that this is a sign of the end times.

1 Tim. 3:11 we are told to be faithful in all things.

**Faithful Pastor**

An elderly preacher was rebuked by one of his deacons one Sunday morning before the service. “Pastor,” said the man, “something must be wrong with your preaching and your work. There’s been only one person added to the church in a whole year, and he’s just a boy.” The minister listened, his eyes moistening and his thin hand trembling. “I feel it all,” he replied, “but God knows I’ve tried to do my duty.” On that day the minister’s heart was heavy as he stood before his flock. As he finished the message, he felt a strong inclination to resign.

After everyone else had left, that one boy came to him and asked, “Do you think if I worked hard for an education, I could become a preacher—perhaps a missionary?” Again tears welled up in the minister’s eyes. “Ah, this heals the ache I feel,” he said. “Robert, I see the Divine hand now. May God bless you, my boy. Yes, I think you will become a preacher.”

Many years later an aged missionary returned to London from Africa. His name was spoken with reverence. Nobles invited him to their homes. He had added many souls to the church of Jesus Christ, reaching even some of Africa’s most savage chiefs. His name was Robert Moffat, the same Robert who years before had spoken to the pastor that Sunday morning in the old Scottish kirk.

Lord, help us to be faithful. Then give us the grace to leave the results to

**Faithfulness is displayed to our Church family and the leadership**

SOME PEOPLE ARE LIKE

**i.** Woodpecker Christians. Going from one church to another

THE BIBLE TELLS US TO

*B. Be faithful to your spiritual/Pastoral leadership*

i**. Obey those who rule over you as they must give account for your souls.**

([Hebrews 13:7](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Hebrews%2013.7)) Appreciate your pastoral leaders who gave you the Word of God. Take a good look at the way they live, and let their faithfulness instruct you, as well as their truthfulness.

**Be faithful with the way you handle your finances**

Pay your bills on time, if at all possible…

*A. Pay your tithes on time*

i. A one tenth of your income belongs to God.

ii. It’s for the welfare of the church and God’s servant,

…Bring the entire tithe into the storehouse so that there may be food in my temple…

iii. When you ignore the one tenth you rob God, ([Malachi 3:8](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Malachi%203.8))

iv. Tithing is the key to material blessings, ([Malachi 3:10](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Malachi%203.10))

ii. God loves a cheerful giver, ([2 Corinthians 9:7](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Corinthians%209.7))

**Be faithful in your marriage partner and family**

LOVE YOUR SPOUSE

TRAIN YOUR CHILDREN

*C. Children should be faithful to their parents and vice versa*

**Employees are to be faithful to their employer and vice versa**

 **Faithfulness brings us under the protective hand of God.**

Psalm 31:23-24 “Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints! For the LORD preserves the faithful, and fully repays the proud person. 24 Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the LORD.”

ON AND ON I COULD GO…

(THE WORD SAINT AND FAITHFUL GO HAND AND HAND) YOU CAN NOT HAVE ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER.

**Proverbs 20:6** Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?

The story is told of a stormy night in Birmingham, England, and the famous missionary, Hudson Taylor, was to speak at a meeting at the Seven Street schoolroom. His hostess assured him that nobody would attend on such a stormy night, but Taylor insisted on going. “I must go even if there is no one but the doorkeeper.” As it turned out, less than a dozen people showed up, but the meeting was marked with unusual spiritual power. Half of those present either became missionaries or gave their children as missionaries; and the rest were faithful supporters of the China Inland Mission for years to come.[**121**](https://bible.org/seriespage/mark-14-faithfulness#P1740_500277)

Closing

Mark Hatfield tells of touring Calcutta with Mother Teresa and visiting the so-called “House of Dying,” where sick children are cared for in their last days, and the dispensary, where the poor line up by the hundreds to receive medical attention. Watching Mother Teresa minister to these people, feeding and nursing those left by others to die, Hatfield was overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of the suffering she and her co-workers face daily. “How can you bear the load without being crushed by it?” he asked. Mother Teresa replied, “My dear Senator, I am not called to be successful, I am called to be faithful.”

Then Paul says

lll. We have a dual citizenship: He addresses this letter to those who are at Ephesus and to those who are in Christ Jesus.

* We have a dual responsibility (we may live in Seaford but we are in Christ)

We may have an earthy citizenship but we also have a heavenly citizenship.

WE ARE IN CHRIST BUT AT THE SAME TIME IN THE WORLD.

God hasn’t called us out of the world ---- to become some kind of separatist

 To live like a monk

 To isolate ourselves from others.

**John 17:14–15 (ESV)**

14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.

We may have to live in this world but we do not mind worldly things.

We do not live as if this world is all there is.

We have a heavenly and eternal perspective

**OUR MIND, OUR FOCUS, OUR AMBITIONS ARE OTHER WORLDLY MINDED… WHILE LIVING AND MINISTERING HIS THIS PRESENT WORLD.**

* this world is not my home,
* The bible says in Hebrews 11:13 and 1 Peter 2:11 that we are **strangers** and **pilgrims…**
* we are just passing through

**But while we are here, let’s live as ambassadors of heaven…**

**Let’s touch lives where we live for heaven’s gain.**

**Philippians 3:20 (ESV)**

20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,