

“Blessings or Hazards”

James 1:17

Introduction

- I. We should truly be grateful for the blessings that God has bestowed upon us.
- II. However, we must be on guard not to let our blessings lead to problems.

Discussion

- I. The blessing of intellect
 - A. Cars are wonderful machines, but not in the hands of a drunkard.
 - B. Much education is powerful, but only if God is at the center (Jer. 10:23; 1 Cor. 1:18-21; 3:18-20; 8:1).
 - C. With the education must come humility (1 Cor. 1:26; Matt. 11:25-26; 18:1-4).
- II. The blessing of time
 - A. We can use the time that God has given us wisely (Eph. 5:16).
 - B. We can also misuse the time that God has given us.
- III. The blessing of wealth
 - A. Money is not the problem
 - B. The love of money is the problem (1 Tim. 6:5-19; Matt. 19:16-30; Heb. 13:5-6; Luke 8:14; 1 John 2:15-17).
- IV. The blessing of power/authority
 - A. Much good can be accomplished by those in positions of power.
 - B. Power can also corrupt (3 John 9-10; Prov. 29:2).
- V. The blessing of beauty, talent and personality
 - A. True beauty and talent is found in faithful service to the Lord.
 - B. Physical beauty and talent can become means of deceit (Prov. 30:30; 11:22).
- VI. The blessing of reputation
 - A. A good name is worth more than physical riches (Prov. 22:1).
 - B. We must not let popularity and esteem corrupt us (Exo. 23:2; John 12:42-43).
- VII. The blessing of good health
 - A. When we are healthy, we are able to do things that we enjoy.
 - B. We must not allow our good health to deceive us into believing that we should put off the things that need to be done (Prov. 27:1).

Conclusion

- I. Thanks be to God for our many blessings.
- II. Never should we allow those blessings to be hazards in our lives.