

Greatly Blessed and Highly Favored

Psalm 40: 4-6

Our text today comes from another familiar and powerfully written psalm of David. Most Bible students are familiar with the often quoted verses from [Psalm 40:1-3](#). Maybe less familiar, and yet just as powerful are [Vv.7-8](#). These are prophetic of the coming Christ and referred to in [Hebrews 10:5-9](#). The sacrifices of old were never sufficient to fully atone for sin. God's righteousness demanded a perfect sacrifice. Christ came, just as the prophets predicted, putting on a robe of flesh in order to offer Himself the atoning sacrifice for sin, all in accordance to the plan and will of God.

Sandwiched between these two amazing passages are our text verses. In these David rejoiced in the abundant blessing and provision of God. While he lived prior to Calvary, he understood the provision of God for humanity. He rejoiced looking forward to Calvary and every believer today can rejoice in this same provision, looking back at Calvary. As we examine the [declarations](#) of David in the text, I want to borrow from the Gather Vocal Band as we consider the thought: [Greatly Blessed and Highly Favored](#).

I. The Attitude of the Righteous (4) – [Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies](#). We must bear in mind that this attitude is prompted by the position now enjoyed in the Lord, being lifted out of the miry clay of sin and set upon the Rock of our salvation. Consider:

A. The Devotion (4a) – [Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust](#). David walked with the Lord and was well aware of the benefit and blessing associated with such a relationship. His life was lived trusting in the Sovereign and he knew those who trusted the Lord as he did would enjoy the same blessing and abundance.

- I am aware of our position in Christ, secured within His mighty hand, and yet I realize such trust requires a continual, conscious effort. It is easy to allow our lives to become consumed with the doubts and cares of life, diverting our focus away from the Lord. There is nothing to fear while secure in Him. We too must continually make the Lord our trust, depending on Him in every situation of life. [Psalm 84:11 – For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.](#) [Psalm 118:8 – It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.](#)

B. The Discernment (4b) – *and respecteth not the proud*. David had met many in life who lived in arrogance and pride. No doubt he too had struggled with such attitudes before. He knew man must walk with the Lord while resisting the pride and arrogance of men. The word respecteth has the idea of “*turning toward*.” David wanted to continually turn toward the Lord, trusting in Him, rather than the wisdom and devices of proud men.

- We would do well to follow this instruction. One cannot walk with the Lord, completely trusting in Him and walk in pride at the same time.

C. The Diligence (4c) – *nor such as turn aside to lies*. Having been lifted out of the miry clay of sin and set upon the Rock, there was nothing to return too. David had received much and he wanted to remain faithful unto the Lord. This would require diligent commitment, but it would be possible as he kept his focus on the Lord instead of those around him.

- What a challenge for us today! I started well in the Lord, being saved by His grace, and I desire to finish well. He has delivered me from the bondage and guilt of sin. He has set my feet upon the Rock and established my path. This world has nothing I need or desire. I too want to remain faithful unto the Lord.

II. The Abundance of the Righteous (5) – *Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered*. David rejoiced in the abundant blessings provided from the Lord to those who are His. Regarding these blessings, consider:

A. Their Number – *Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done... if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered*. David admitted the wonderful works and blessing of God toward him were many, literally more than he could possibly number. God’s blessings were endless; he couldn’t possibly count every blessing he enjoyed. As David began to ponder the Lord’s goodness, he quickly lost count of the untold blessings he had received.

- I know that we are not continually aware of the Lord’s blessing in our lives, but His blessing is continually there. Like David, as we begin to consider and count the many blessings we have received, they are literally more than can be numbered. It is utterly impossible to count every blessing we have received in the Lord. We couldn’t even count every blessing we have received today. God is good to us all the time, continually meeting our every need.

B. Their Nature (5) – *Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward.* David stood amazed that the eternal, sovereign God was mindful of sinful men. God's thoughts were literally toward humanity. He is not a God who is far removed from mankind, but actively works in our lives and considers us continually.

- Isn't that an amazing and comforting thought? God is mindful of us! His thoughts are directed toward us. He desires to fellowship with us, having an active and monumental part of our lives. In fact, God thinks of us far more than we do of Him. His love and grace cannot be denied. Christ bore our sin on the cross, redeeming and reconciling us to God. Such love is never forgotten or neglected. One who loved that much, considers us continually! *Psalm 139:17-18 – How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! ^[18] If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.* This alone should challenge every believer to direct their thoughts and devotion continually toward the Lord.

C. Their Notoriety (5) – *they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee.* David found it impossible to comprehend or repay such gracious blessing. He realized he was forever indebted to the Lord for His gracious provision. Naturally he could offer worship and faithful service, but it would be impossible to offer anything that would compare to the blessing he had received.

- It is impossible for us to repay the kindness and grace we have received. The Lord has been much better to us than we could ever deserve. We will forever be indebted to Him for His gracious provision and salvation. While our Lord desires and deserves our committed devotion, He does not expect nor require us to repay Him for all He has provided. It would be an impossible feat to achieve. Our loving devotion and service is really all we have to offer in return for the gracious provision we have received.

III. The Attention of the Righteous (6) – *Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required.* Here David spoke of the believer's awareness of what the Lord desires and our devoted attention to pleasing Him. In this verse we discover:

A. The Refusal – While God had commanded the offering of sacrifices under the law, He never intended for them to atone for sin. The blood of bulls and goats were never enough to appease the righteous demands of God. He commanded and expected obedience in the offering of sacrifices, but He desired committed obedience to the relationship with Him above sacrifices. Many believed offering a sacrifice was all God desired, but He wanted a committed relationship.

- We no longer offer blood sacrifices because Christ fully atoned for our sin, but this principle remains. Many today seek to please the Lord through traditions or religious practices and yet fail to offer what He really desires – communion with Him. We can attend every service, read our Bible's daily, and recite many prayers and still fail to please the Lord. He longs for us to serve and worship Him, having a committed relationship with Him.

B. The Resolve – While David doesn't specifically say, the context of the passage reveals his committed resolve to walking with the Lord in an effort to please Him. He wanted to focus on the aspects of his life that God was genuinely interested in. Rather than being devoted solely to religious practices, David longed for an intimate relationship with the Lord.

- Every believer needs to develop such an attitude and commitment. There is much that is being done in an effort to please the Lord, and yet we often neglect that which He desires most. The Lord desires to fellowship with us. He desires our worship and praise. He is certainly worthy of both! I want to please the Lord through a committed relationship instead of attempting to gain His favor through much busyness and outward religious activity. Like David, I want to enjoy an intimate closeness to my Lord and Savior! He provided all that I enjoy in this life and the promise and assurance of eternity. The least I can do is love and serve Him.

Conclusion: Those in Christ are blessed much more than we could possibly comprehend. [1 Cor.2:9](#) – But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. Many view this verse solely in light of eternity, but it has great application for our lives today. The saved by grace are greatly blessed and highly favored. Are we living our lives in a way that pleases and honors our Lord and Savior? Maybe you have yet to respond to the gift of grace. If so, come to Christ today in repentance and faith. He is gracious and faithful to save!