

First Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Numbers 6:22-27

June 15 & 16, 2019

What a God! What a blessing!

- Do you know the first pastoral acts of a new pastor?
 - ♦ Closing Prayer followed by The Blessing
 - ♦ The Blessing - what a package of gifts to his new people.
 - ♦ The Blessing bookends a pastor's ministry: his first & last pastoral acts
- The Blessing: a summary of the Service - equipping for the week
 - ♦ Commonly used - bring it out to polish it and see in all its glory!
- ❖ Note the Source of the Blessing
 - ²² *The LORD said to Moses, ²³ "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them...*
 - ♦ This Blessing - it's full text - came straight from Yahweh!
 - ♦ **Not** authored by Moses, a poet, a committee, or wishful thinking!
 - Yahweh - the God of Abraham, Isaac, Israel - the God of the Exodus
 - ♦ Yahweh: the God of faithful covenant saving love
 - ♦ More than a list of goodies! It reveals Yahweh's character and heart.
- ❖ The Blessing is intimate and very personal
 - This is lost in English. Each *you* is **singular**.
 - The blessings doesn't blast the group like an impersonal flood.
 - The blessings come in **individual servings**, tailored just for you.
- ❖ The Blessing promises an ongoing relationship
 - The verbs: *ble^ss, keep, make his face shine, be gracious, turn his face toward, and give you peace* - all 6 are imperfects: *ongoing actions*
 - Since Yahweh the eternal God is the eternal Source - they keep flowing
 - *So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.*
 - ♦ These blessings don't just fill the air. They land on us, labeling us as Yahweh's possessions. He claims us as his personal possessions.
 - ♦ Anyone who would attack or harm us will have to deal with Yahweh.
 - ♦ He **vows** to bless us. It's not just nice sounding words. He pledges to!

What a God!

- ❖ Yahweh bestows 3 sets of double blessings
 - ***The LORD bless you and keep you;***
 - ♦ *ble^ss* - bestows the power to prosper (as God designed/intended)
 - ♦ *keep* - he protects, keeps watch, and is careful to look after you
 - ***the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;***
 - ♦ beaming with love and favor - like parents who delight in their child
 - ♦ An affection & undeserved favor from God. Not based on us!
 - ♦ In God's sight we are forgiven and robed in Jesus' righteousness
 - ♦ We're not in and out of favor. We stand in and on his grace.
 - ***the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.***
 - ♦ He actively turns to us, gives us his full attention, looks us in the eyes.
 - ♦ He bestows his richest all-encompassing gift: *peace*
 - The sum total of all that is good in life.
 - **The positive state of rightness, well-being, and wholeness.**
 - Gifts that replace what's needed to be restored into his image
 - Removing the empty and rot of sin - replacing with life to the full

What a blessing!

- ❖ Who is this God who is One, yet ***the LORD, the LORD, the LORD?***
 - Jesus came to make Yahweh more fully known - The Holy Triune God!
 - ♦ So clear at his Baptism and when he instituted Baptism.
 - Every Christian who confesses the Creeds knows the chief work of each
 - ♦ The Father blesses - providing and protecting - *ble^ss and keep*
 - ♦ The Son is *full of grace and truth* - the basis for God honoring us with the title *beloved child and heir*
 - ♦ The Spirit sanctifies - transforming and restoring us in God's image
 - Releasing from darkness - filling us with light
 - Producing: *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.* Gal. 5:22-23 EHV Making us whole

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Blessings straight from heaven! It's worth coming to church just for this blessing! God says, *Bless my people and I will bless them.* Why go a single week without it?

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