

CHRISTIANS HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES AS WELL AS BEING BLESSED

Revelation 22:14

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Sooner or later every person has something great happen to him/her such as graduating from school, getting married, having children, etc. However the greatest thing that can happen to anybody is becoming a Christian. It is sad that so many Christians don't really appreciate being a Christian until much of their life is over. There are so many benefits and blessings that come with being a Christian, however Christians also have responsibilities to carry out.

I. A BLESSING OF BEING A CHRISTIAN IS HAVING GOD AS ONE'S HEAVENLY FATHER

(1 John 3:1)

1. What a blessing it is to have God as one's Heavenly Father.
 - He is the source of every good and perfect gift from above. (James 1:17; Matthew 7:11)
 - He provides with comfort in all one's troubles. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)
 - In love, He corrects when it is needed. (Hebrews 12:5-11)
 - He will always be one's Heavenly Father, never leaving. (Hebrews 13:5-6)
2. There are certain responsibilities that come with God being one's Heavenly Father.
 - One must submit to God. (James 4:7)
 - One must submit to whatever He says (His Word).
 - One must submit to how God chooses to work in one's life. (1 Peter 5:6-11)
 - One must draw near to God. (James 4:8)
 - As every natural father loves it when his child/children want to hug him, so does God. (Matthew 23:37)
 - Christians draw near to God by "cleansing themselves and purifying their hearts." (James 4:8)
 - One obtains forgiveness of sins and then working hard to serve God.
 - As a child of God, drawing near to God involves repentance, confession of sins and prayer. (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9)

II. ANOTHER BLESSING IS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS ONE'S LORD AND HIGH PRIEST

(1 Corinthians 8:6; Hebrews 4:14)

1. What is so important about this particular blessing?
 - The One who is the believer's "Lord" is also the one who rules the kings of the earth. (Revelation 1:5-6)
 - He has all authority in heaven and earth. (Matthew 28:18)
 - All beings are subject to Him. (1 Peter 3:22)
 - As great as Jesus is, He still calls all believers His "brethren." (Hebrews 2:11-12)
 - As one's "High Priest" Jesus intercedes on the believer's behalf. (Romans 8:34)
 - He is a High Priest who understands one's every feeling. (Hebrews 2:17-18)
 - He lives forever to make intercession for the believer. (Hebrews 7:24-25)
2. There are responsibilities that go with having Jesus Christ as one's Lord and High Priest.
 - If Jesus is truly one's LORD, then one must do what He says. (Luke 6:46)
 - One must be careful to do what Jesus teaches. (Matthew 28:18-20)
 - One must keep ALL the commandments of Jesus. (John 15:10, 14)

- If Jesus is one's High Priest, then one must treat Him as such. (Hebrews 4:14-16)
- One should not delay in obtaining mercy and finding grace when there is the need.
- One should spend much time in prayer.

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT INDWELLS EACH BELIEVER IN JESUS (1 Corinthians 3:16)

1. There are many blessings that come with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
 - The Holy Spirit gives strength to put aside the works of the flesh. (Romans 8:11-13; Ephesians 3:16-20)
 - The Holy Spirit helps one's weakness in prayer by acting as an intercessor. (Romans 8:26-27)
2. There are also responsibilities that come with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
 - One must keep his/her body which is the temple of God, the church, holy. (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)
 - One is to glorify God in all ways with all things, including his/her body. (1 Corinthians 6:18-20)
 - One is to walk in the Spirit, being led by the Holy Spirit and produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:16-18, 22, 25)
 - This is done by setting one's mind on the things of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:5-6)
 - The Word of God helps enable one to set his/her mind on the things of the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 6:17)

IV. THE CHURCH BECOMES THE BELIEVER'S FAMILY (1 Timothy 3:15)

1. It is a blessing to have the Church as one's family.
 - The members are like one's father, mother, brothers and sisters. (1 Timothy 5:1-2)
 - Church members can even replace those that might be lost because one became a Christian. (Mark 10:28-30; Matthew 12:46-50)
2. There are responsibilities that come with having the Church as one's family.
 - Each member is to lift up, to edify the others. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
 - In order to lift each other up, there must be a frequent getting together.
 - Every member must do his/her part. (Ephesians 4:15-16)
 - Each member is to help bear each other's loads, burdens, etc. (Galatians 6:1-2)
 - Jesus ordered it to be done.
 - To do so requires that everyone know each other well.

CONCLUSION:

1. There are countless blessings in being a Christian and there are many responsibilities that Christians have.
2. Christians are blessed and it is important that every Christian do his/her part in helping his/her fellow brothers and sisters. (Hebrews 3:12-15)
3. Christians are to be led by God's Word and the Holy Spirit who indwells each believer.