

Cherished-Chosen-Challenged – August 1, 2010

Daily Bread

“The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.” Psalm 145:15-16

Texas Christians learn by experience that one of the greatest summer blessings that can be received is the gift of rain. The hot summer sun and searing summer winds parch the land and burden both man and beast. The grass and flowers wither and die. The trees and shade plants wilt under oppressive heat and surely would succumb without the gentle showers that fall from heaven.

Man has not learned how to master the simplest elements of nature, let alone the extremes of the weather. We can't make it rain no matter how hard we try. And we can't stop the rain from coming and flooding the earth either. We can observe and explain the elements of weather, but the wind blows where it will and the storm clouds gather at the direction of God's powerful will. Heat in summer and cold in winter are a testimony of what we learn from the Scriptures: as long as God allows the earth to remain there will be seedtime and harvest time...there will be summer and winter, spring and fall. Nothing will change this order which God has put in place. Scientists and environmentalists may have convinced themselves that man's lifestyle dominates and controls the environment around us, but the truth is that it all rest in the hands of a mighty and benevolent God.

We are but stewards of God's creation and benefactors of God's gracious gifts. And so we pray...asking God to grant the gift of rain to revive His creation and bring forth it's bounty that both man and beast might have their desires satisfied. It is our privilege to make these requests only because we are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who died and rose for us. For it is only to believers that God has granted such a gift as prayer.

It is good that we respond to God's invitation and command to pray...to ask Him specifically for those blessings which we need and desire.

Knowing that these blessings come not because we deserve them, but solely for the sake of Christ, our Lord, it is good to be thankful for all the blessings that come from Him. And these things for which we ask, are but an expansion upon that which Christ has taught us in the Lord's Prayer, for all that we need to support body and life are surely included in the petition: "Give us this day our daily bread". Here Christ teaches us that all good gifts needed to sustain us this day come from Him and we ask so that He provides what we need according to His gracious mercy. Whether it is food or clothing, health or well being, good weather or any and all earthly blessings, we recognize that these come alone at God's behest and we are thankful for them. God alone knows what we need and He decides what we are to receive and when is best for us to receive these blessings.

Today once again the people of God gather before His altar to hear His blessed Word and to thank and praise Him for His goodness. As our prayers ascend before His throne let us be thankful for the open hand of God, no matter what he gives, for He alone truly can and does satisfy the desire of every living thing.

- Remember: God satisfies the desires of both believer and unbeliever. In His grace He makes the rain to fall on both the just and the unjust. Let us thank Him for all he has given and be ever mindful of these things at all times.
- Remember: Prayer is the privilege of the believer. Let us use this gift to implore that God's will be done among us and that He embolden us to know and do His holy will.

How blessed we are to be the people of God. He has chosen us to be in this place. He has prepared us for this time. He has equipped us for service to Him. **Don't wait for someone else to do it. If you wait on someone else to do it...it will never get done!** God bless you in the growth of your faith and in service to Him and His people, for your labor in the Lord is never in vain.

Pastor Jacobs

Cherished-Chosen-Challenged 2010