

May God, who sees all things, and who is the Ruler of all spirits and the Lord of all flesh—who chose our Lord Jesus Christ and us through Him to be a peculiar people—grant to everyone that calls upon His glorious and holy Name; faith, peace, patience, long-suffering, self-control, purity, and sobriety, to the well-pleasing of His Name, through our High Priest and Protector, Jesus Christ, by whom be to Him glory, and majesty, and power, and honour, both now and forevermore. **Amen.**
Clement of Rome (35-99)

Sermon: On Blessing

Verses to consider:

The Hebrew word '*barak*' which is translated as bless (meaning to praise, congratulate, salute);
Genesis 1:1-31 (particularly vs. 22 and 28 – note what God *blesses*).

Genesis 12:1-3

Genesis 22:16-18 (the reason for the blessing)

Numbers 6:23-27

Ezekiel 44:30

The Hebrew word '*esher*' which is translated as bless (meaning happiness);

Job 5:17

Psalms 1:1-3

The Koine Greek word '*makarios*' which is translated as bless (meaning happiness);

Matthew 5:3-12 & Luke 6:20-22

Romans 4:6-8

James 1:12

The Koine Greek word '*eulogeo*' which is translated as bless (meaning good words, good report);

Matthew 26:26

Luke 1:42

Ephesians 1:3

1 Peter 3:9

Questions:

- What does it mean to be 'blessed'?
- What does it mean to 'bless' others?
- Are 'blessings' wishes?
- Do blessings change God's mind?
- What do purifications (such as fasting, incense, etc.) have to do with blessing?

Sources: J.I. Packer 'Knowing God' and A. MacLaren 'Expositions of Holy Scripture'

We most earnestly beseech You, O Lover of humankind, to bless all Your people, the flocks of Your fold. Send down into our hearts the peace of heaven, and grant us also the peace of this life. Give life to the souls of all of us, and let no deadly sin prevail against us, or any of Your people. Deliver all who are in trouble, for You are our God, who sets the captives free; who gives hope to the hopeless, and help to the helpless; who lifts up the fallen; and who is the Haven of the shipwrecked. Give Your pity, pardon, and refreshment to every Christian soul, whether in affliction or error. Preserve us, in our pilgrimage through this life from hurt and danger, and grant that we may end our lives as Christians, well-pleasing to You and free from sin, and that we may have our portion and lot with all Your saints. **Amen.**

Mark the Evangelist, disciple of Simon-Peter (5-68)