

## The Greatest Blessing

Ponder: Count your many blessings, but which is the greatest?

Scripture: “Blessed is the man You choose, and cause to approach You, that he may dwell in Your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple” (Psalm 65:4, NKJV).

In Psalm 65, David praises the Lord for a multitude of benefits including answered prayer, forgiveness of sins, rain, fertile fields full of grain, and green pastures full of livestock. Only the most self-centered reprobate would feel no gratitude for such gifts!

Of paramount importance to David, however, was his close fellowship with God. The Lord “chose” David in several ways. First, He chose the nation of Israel to be His in a special way as He fulfilled His plan to bring the Savior into the world. David, as a member of the tribe of Judah, was not only an Israelite, but a member of the kingly tribe. And God chose David himself to be Israel’s king following Saul’s death.

But none of those things guaranteed intimate fellowship with God. Many Israelite kings failed miserably in that area! However, the Lord chose David, knowing he was “a man after My own heart, who shall fulfill all My will” (Acts 13:22). By no means was David flawless, but even when sin got the better of him, God provided atonement (see Psalm 65:3, “iniquities prevail against me; as for our transgressions, You will provide atonement for them”).

David and others God chose would be caused “to approach” God. This has to do with offering acceptable worship. For example, under the Law of Moses, a Gentile who wanted to worship the Lord by observing Passover first had to become a proselyte Jew; then he could “come near (approach) and keep it” (Exodus 23:48).

In Christ, we are chosen (Ephesians 1:4). God choosing us was not arbitrary or capricious, as per Calvin’s false doctrine of unconditional election. Before creating the world, the Lord determined that He would save sinners who came to Him through Christ, Who is His chosen one (Isaiah 42:1). We are a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9). God accepts our worship through Christ, “the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name” (Hebrews 13:15).

Like David, we have a multitude of blessings to count; but certainly the greatest is being chosen and accepted in Christ!

Song: “Count Your Blessings”

Prayer: Merciful Father, we thank You for choosing us in Christ and accepting our worship through Him. We enjoy countless other gifts by Your grace, but surely this one surpasses all the others. May we always rejoice in our fellowship with You through Jesus, in Whose name we pray, Amen.