

**BLESSED BE THE GOD AND FATHER  
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

We have much for which to be thankful. God is most deserving of our praise and adoration. “The LORD liveth; and blessed be my Rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted”(Psa. 18:46).

The Apostle Peter records three wonderful blessings that God bestows. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you” (1 Pet. 1:3-4). First, we read of God’s abundant and overflowing mercy. The mercy of God is never ending and is like a freely, flowing fountain that can be tasted by all who will obey God’s commands. Jesus Christ “is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:2). Second, because of God’s mercy, He has given man a plan by which we can have hope. Many today place their hope in things of this world. Paul writes, “Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using” (Col. 2:21-22). The hope we should seek is a “lively hope.” That hope is eternal life (1 Pet. 1:4). If we seek a lively hope, we must have a faith that is not dead. “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Ye see then how that by works [*of obedience*] a man is justified, and not by faith only” (Jam. 2:17, 24). Third, we read that the hope of an incorruptible inheritance is only made possible by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That sacrifice exhibits the greatest love that man has ever known. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved” (John 3:16-17). Jesus states, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). The love of Christ is further exemplified in the fact that He died not just for the faithful, but also for those who were in sin. “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:6-8).

The mercy, hope, and love of God are indeed blessings worthy of our thanksgiving and praise. We can show forth our honor to God by simply obeying His Word. Jesus says, “Ye are My friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you” (John 15:14). God’s love, in sending His Son and making a path to reconciliation through Jesus’ blood, has made mercy and hope possible for all. However, only those who will humbly submit to God’s will, and by faith (Heb. 11:6), repent (Luke 13:3), confess (Acts 8:37), be baptized (Acts 2:38), and live faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10), shall enjoy these grand blessings in Heaven.

- *Brad Green*