



Why Benedictions Matter

AUGUST 24

Why Benedictions Matter

Series – Why This Matters

- **Last Week – Preaching**
 - **Today – Benediction**
 - something I do every time I preach
 - has deep meaning for us
- Not – tradition, empty words, an easy way to say “that’s all folks”**
- Not – something we have to do, by law or religious decree**



Why Benedictions Matter

1. Stated Desire of God

- setting of this passage
- see God directing, commanding
- Numbers 6:22-27



Why Benedictions Matter

**The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,
23“Speak to Aaron and his sons,
saying, Thus you shall bless the
people of Israel: you shall say to
them,**

**24 The LORD bless you and keep
you; the LORD make his face to shine
upon you and be gracious to you;
26 the LORD lift up his countenance
upon you and give you peace.**

**27 “So shall they put my name upon the
people of Israel, and I will bless
them.”**



Why Benedictions Matter

a) pattern of this in Scripture

- **Lev. 9:22 Aaron lifting hands and blessing the people**

- **Luke 24:50-51 “Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them.**

⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven.”



Why Benedictions Matter

- a) pattern of this in Scripture
 - Paul's letters, both of Peter's, one of John's, carry the blessing :
 - grace and peace be yours
 - pattern clear in scripture



Why Benedictions Matter

2. The Lord...

- immediate in identifying the who
- setting:
 - desert, delivered from slavery
 - manna, protection from armies
 - glory of God, Mountain of God
- may the God of all creation, who has chosen you, delivered you, and is setting you apart as his own...



Why Benedictions Matter

a) bless you

- blessing – invoking favor or goodness from one with the ability to provide it
- passing on of property, authority, name of family. Sought after by children from the parents
- favor you with something that is only his to grant, his blessing in your life and circumstances



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b) keep you

- protective care – defend, point out danger, hold onto you
- guidance and instruction are part of this deal
- remember, nation without a formal defense, king etc.

***NT. – 1 Thess 5:24 – He who called you is faithful to do it!**



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c) make his face shine upon you

- Peterson – smile on you, idea of pleasure, acceptance
- Garden of Eden – where are you?
- Baptism of Jesus – my son in whom I am pleased
- Conversation with Satan – look at Job!

*** Would covenant relationship be all it is supposed to be!**



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d) be gracious unto you

- **Peterson – gift you**
- **mercy – not receiving what I do deserve**
- **grace – receiving what I do not deserve**
- **Paul – grow in the knowledge and grace of our Lord....**



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e) lift up his countenance upon you

- translation – countenance – glow of God on us

- Mount of Transfiguration – glow of God on them.....

*** Would God allow you to see him clearly – that you would be captivated, overwhelmed, awed – basking in his presence!**



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f) give you peace

- shalom – carries the idea of wholeness, completeness, a being at rest and ease. Not the absence of difficulty – yet the complete acceptance and ease within.

- John 14:27 – peace I leave, my peace I give...Let not your heart be troubled...

- Phil. 4:6-7 – peace of God which passes understanding will guard your hearts and minds.....



Why Benedictions Matter

3. Clearly Set Apart – Identified

- vs.27” “So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”

a) All might Know – belong to me

- OT marks of identity

- NT marks of covenant

b) I will Bless them

- powerful promise



Why Benedictions Matter

So What?

- 1. Desire of God for His Children**
- 2. From the Source of All Power and Authority**
- 3. That we might be Set Apart, known as Children of God**
- 4. Receive the Blessing**

