The Blessing and the Curse

To bless someone means to call for God’s good gifts to come down upon him. To curse someone means to call down disaster upon him. A blessing or a curse is only effective if God is at work in it.

Noah’s drunkenness and Ham’s sin of dishonoring his father became the occasion for a prophetic curse and a prophetic blessing.

**How can you have the blessing of God?**

Only by God’s grace in Christ. Consider--

**1. The Blessing and the Curse of *Noah***

A. The curse on Ham’s deserving *descendants*

B. The blessing of the world through *Shem*

**2. The Blessing and the Curse of the *Covenants***

A. God’s covenant with *Abraham*

Genesis 12:1-3

B. God’s covenant with *Israel*

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

**3. The Blessing and the Curse of *Christ***

Galatians 3:10-14

A. *Our curse* fell on Christ

B. *God’s blessing* comes through Christ

**Application**

The cup of blessing at *the Lord’s Table*

1 Corinthians 10:16; 23-32

**For additional study**

1. Numbers 6:22-26. In this famous benediction—

What blessings did the priests request for the people?

What did God say He would do?

Did God’s promise extend automatically to all the people regardless of their spiritual state? (Compare Luke 10:5-6.)

2. Ephesians 1:3-6

Whom does the Father bless?

What kind of blessings are in view here?

How do we receive these blessings?

3. Jeremiah 17:5-8

Who is cursed? What is he like?

Who is blessed? What is he like?

4. Hebrews has several passages that sternly warn professing believers not to turn away from Christ. Persevering faith is the only true faith. How does Hebrews 6:7-8 describe true and false believers?