**These Perilous Times**

**Vol. 13, No. 22, Nov. 21, 2021**

**“Count Your Blessing”**

 While reminiscing of songs that were sung in my *“Public,”* Elementary School, back in the late 1950’s, a familiar hymn always seems to captivate my mind. In Mid-November as our school prepared to celebrate the “Thanksgiving Holiday, “we sang; “We Gather Together.”

 I was amazed to find that my secular school was singing the exact same hymn that I sang around Thanksgiving time in my church. It just so happens to be Hymn # 8 in the SDA Church Hymnal. The first verse begins: “We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing…” The last part of verse 1 finishes: “…Sing praises to His name; *He forgets not* *His own*.”

**What does this mean for us?**

**Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season**

 Question: As we make known our prayers and supplications to our Heavenly Father, do we praise Him for every blessing? You know, those things we sometimes deem “insignificant,” i.e., Jesus’ willingness to suffer on the cross for “our” sins, the ability to breathe without having to think about it, good health, good minds, comfortable homes, etcetera.

 The tradition of celebrating Thanksgiving is a great annual tradition, but we need not wait until the fourth Thursday in November to praise God and give thanks for His continual blessings.

 As well as receiving blessings from our Lord, we can also be a blessing for our Lord, by helping and giving to the less fortunate, thus; ***living the Good News of the Gospel***.

**A message from Paul**

“I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember *the words of the Lord Jesus*, that He said, *it is* *more blessed to give than to receive*.” Acts 20:35 NKJV

 (Italics supplied)

Did you know that Jesus also taught that there are blessings for us, even when being reviled (hated) and persecuted?

“***Blessed*** are they which are *persecuted* for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ***Blessed*** are ye, when men shall revile you, and *persecute* you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. ***Rejoice and be exceedingly glad***: for great is your reward in heaven: for so *persecuted* they the prophets which were before you.

Matthew 5:10-12 (Emphasis supplied)

Let’s Notice SDA Hymn # 695

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”

**Amen!**

 