

letter to elect exiles **FIRST PETER**

#53

CALLED TO BLESS

PSA.34:8-22/1PET.3:8-17

1) GOD, THROUGH THE GOSPEL, BLESSES HIS ENEMIES

A. The Gospel Is the Means By Which God Blesses Enemies

Matthew 5:44-45 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

B. The Example of Christ, His Apostles, and Other Choice Servants

Mark 15:4-5 And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

"Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing... Today you shall be with me in Paradise..."

Romans 12:17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

1 Thes. 5:15 See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

1 Cor. 4:12 When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure...

Acts 7:59-60 And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

2) THE EVIDENCE THAT GOD'S BLESSING HAS TRANSFORMED US

A. We Seek God's Blessing for Others

B. We Actively Turn from Evil and Seek and Pursue Peace

C. We Discern the True & Ultimate Blessing from Delusive & Secondary Blessings