

## PP1 Missional Blessing.

I received a magazine in the mail recently, a kind retired pastor pays for the subscription for me and it is hugely encouraging. It's called Leadership journal and it is designed to help Pastors and Ministers in their leadership of Churches.

I read a great article on blessing people. Yep, blessing people. Not just being nice to them but praying a blessing over them or on them. Doesn't sound like a Baptist thing does it. Actually, this blessing thing doesn't happen too much anymore from most denominations.

We tend to associate it with the benediction. The going out blessing given at the end of a church service.

Blessing God's people began with the passage that we read.

### PP2 Numbers 6:22-27 (ESV)

<sup>22</sup> The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

<sup>23</sup> "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

<sup>24</sup> The LORD bless you and keep you;

<sup>25</sup> the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

<sup>26</sup> the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

<sup>27</sup> "So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."

We have to work out here how we read this. Here are two options.

1. PP3 Do we read it as if this part of the bible is just for clergy? It is written to Moses to tell Aaron the priest what to say to the people?
2. PP4 Do we read it as if this part of the bible is for us all to participate in?

My interpretation, partly because I have a very Baptist theology, is that Pp5 all Scripture has something in it for us. Thus each person has something to get out of this.

Secondly, PP6 we believe in the priesthood of all believers. Now, this concept of priesthood of all believers is often taken very out of context.

It does not mean that everyone has a say in church governance, nor is it about church governance and politics in any shape or form.

It is about each individual person having the capacity to go to God. The only priestly person we need spiritually is Jesus. Each of us can participate in all of God's Kingdom building activities. Actually all of God's people can lead their particular aspect of ministry.

What does that mean? We can all minister to each other, we can go directly to God in prayer, we don't need me to act as an intermediary, we can blessing people, pray for them etc.

So this passage is for us. **PP7 It is a format or template for us to bless people.**

You may say, hang on, this is mission month, what's this got to do with mission? Everything.

What we do in mission is to find ways to bless people. We give people the message of Jesus, we financially support them, we find ways of helping communities develop, etc

As the people of God, we are called to bless people.

Look at **PP8 Genesis 12:2-3 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."**

Notice: God is going to bless Abraham why? So all the families on earth will be blessed. IS this just for Jews? No way. Notice what our bible reading says:

**PP9 27 "So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."**

Have we taken the name of Jesus, are we His people. We are after all Christian. Which means to be like Christ. Is this for us. Yes.

**PP10 We are blessed to be a blessing!!!!!!** (As Keith Ham said to me the other day)

So we have this blessing to pass on.

**Pp11 24 The LORD bless you and keep you;**

<sup>25</sup> **the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;**

<sup>26</sup> **the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.**

Who do we give the blessing to?

Everyone we can. Fellow Christians, friends, family. I do think though that we have to ask permission to do it. Particularly of non- Christians. The blessing you give may be the beginning of an introduction to Jesus.

Give God's grace away, you can't keep it all for yourself.

So what we are going to do now. Is bless each other.

Get your memory card. Turn to the person next to you on your left and bless them, turn to the person on your right and bless them. As you bless each other, I want to bless the band members as they come up then we will bless the Lord.