



## Blessed... what is it?

*Is it to receive many red packets?  
Is it to have a prosperous business?  
Or is it to have health and longevity?*

Everybody seeks to be happy, and at the end of all the festivity and merriment, we must finally ask ourselves if we are truly happy. True blessedness is a supreme joy given by God, a joy that is independent of one's circumstances, a joy that comes about because we have peace with God.

### 'Blessed' (福)

The word 'blessed' (福) comprises four characters, an iconographic record of the original blessedness of man preserved in the Chinese character. One man (一口) in a garden (田) with the Divine (礻). Adam was this man, created in the image of God, to keep the Garden of Eden. He had fellowship with God, thus glorifying and enjoying the Creator. This was true happiness.

### Blessedness Lost

Alas! When Adam disobeyed the command of God to abstain from the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, this communion was broken. As much as children bear the likeness of their parents, all we who are children of Adam have been born in sin. Even at a tender age we have already known how to lie, be jealous and disrespectful. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. We may claim to have done many charitable deeds but even these good works fall so far short of God's holiness that God condemns them as filthy rags.<sup>1</sup>

## **Condemned!**

God is holy and will not tolerate sin. He is righteous and hence must punish sin. Before the all-seeing God, we are all condemned!<sup>2</sup> This condemnation is to die physically and spiritually, here on earth and then in hell - a death with weeping and gnashing of teeth, a death of everlasting torture in the Lake of Fire.<sup>3</sup> The only way to escape this condemnation is to find a replacement to bear this penalty. However, all sinners are immediately disqualified - for every one of us is guilty, justly deserving our own punishment.

## **Blessedness Regained in Christ!**

Unable to meet God's requirement, God in His divine mercy and love sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to be born of a virgin, live a sinless life and die for sinful men. He perfectly fulfilled every condition of righteousness required by God. Finally He willingly laid down His life for sinful men such as us. He gives this blessed hope to all that trust in Him: that as He rose from the dead, so shall we. Hear His words of eternal life.

*And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.*  
(John 6:39-40)

Christ has fulfilled the justice of God on our behalf by paying the penalty for sin with His blood. We cannot add to His perfect work. However we are commanded to turn away from sin, believe in Christ and receive Him into our lives. To have forgiveness of sin and be at peace with God - this is true blessedness!

## **Red for Blessed!**

This red packet contains no money but something far more valuable - the message of salvation. The red of the packet may be likened to the crimson blood of Christ, shed to purchase the eternal blessedness of hopeless sinners.

May you be a new creature, with a new life in Christ this Lunar New Year!

## **Blessed Lunar New Year**

### **1. *Isaiah 64:6***

**But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.**

### **2. *John 3:16-18***

**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his**

Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

**3. *Revelation 20:13-15***

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

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