

Bless My Soul!



(or not)

Bless My Soul!

(or not)

Psalm 49:18

For in his life he blessed his soul;
yea, *men* praise you
when you do well for yourself.

The psalmist is talking about the rich. The two verses preceding the one quoted above inform us of this:

Psalm 49:16, 17 Do not be afraid when one becomes rich, when the glory of his house increases; for when he dies he shall take nothing; his glory shall not go down after him.

We're focusing today on the fact that the rich man **blesses his own soul**.

This word for blessing is the same word used for our blessing of God in praise of Him:

Psalm 16:7 I will bless Jehovah, who counseled me. My reins also teach me *in* the nights.

So a contrast is immediately apparent. We will either bless the Lord in this life, or else we will bless our own souls. Then, what we bless in this life will reap its proper harvest in the next life, as the psalmist continues of the rich man in Psalm 49:

Psalm 49:19 He shall go to the generation of his

fathers; they shall not see light forever.

There are two basic objects of blessing in the world. To bless one is idolatry, to bless the other is true worship. All men bless one or the other:

Romans 1:25 who changed the truth of God into the lie, and worshiped and served the created thing more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Notice that Paul only accuses us of worshiping the created thing *more* than the Creator. We may say, "God has been good to me" and thank Him, yet we may still use what He has given us in an idolatrous way.

Notice also that in Romans 1:25 the phrase is "worshiped and served." Most men can deceive themselves into thinking that they honor the true God in their own way, but very few can deny what they actually serve with their lives. True *worship* of God only exists when we *serve* Him alone.

Lip service to God, complete with songs and prayers, means nothing if we are not serving Him with our lives. Spirit-led songs and prayers are merely the dedication of the whole life to God; otherwise, our songs and prayers are only hypocrisy, no matter how deep are our feelings towards God when we sing, pray, or worship.

It is all too easy to bless God in the religion segment of our lives but bless ourselves in the rest of our lives. In that case, we are only *using God* as a means to bless ourselves. Those who use other people for their own

advantage are certainly cads. Those who use God are both cads and fools, for God is not taken in by our flattery. We may believe the blessings of this life are signs of His favor, but earthly blessings do not necessarily connote our acceptance by God:

Matthew 5:45 ... Because He causes the sun to rise on *the evil and the good*, and sends rain on the just and unjust.

You will either bless Jehovah and His Christ *with* your soul, or you will bless your own soul. There are many *ways* we may bless our own souls, but it is the blessing *of* ourselves which clearly marks us as idolaters, idolaters whom God will not bless with the blessings of Christ.