

## The Goodness of God

### Deuteronomy 28:13-16

#### Blessings for Obedience

(Deuteronomy 28:13-16) The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them.

Priests are told how to bless their people (Number 6:24-27). We call this the Priestly Blessing, or the Aaronic Blessing or Benediction. This is a key reason why we close our Sunday services with a benediction. Our Lord's last act of ministry before returning to heaven was to bless His people (Luke 24:50-51). His nail-pierced hand is lifted over the heads of His children in continual blessing. This wasn't just an expression of good will or a simple prayer. Christ convey this blessing to us with authority. 'Bless' implied life, health, and prosperity. These blessings are spelled out for Israel in Deuteronomy 28, and verse 1 set you high above all the nations on earth; v3-6 in the city, and country, your children and possessions when you come in and go out. We're to soak up the light, joy, radiance, and enthusiasm of Almighty God. We need to be close to Him, in His Word, worshiping and loving Him. As we absorb His light, we begin glowing in the darkness like a child's luminescent object.

#### Exodus 4:15-17

*You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him. But take this staff in your hand so you can perform miraculous signs with it.*

'putting words in someone's mouth' is not a bad thing after all if the Lord wills it how stubborn was Moses?

(1) verse 3:11 – 'who am I' that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Isarel out of Egypt – two extremes: do not think of yourself too lowly such as an animal (evolution from monkeys) or incapable of serving God because of your limited knowledge, strength, etc. Nor think of yourself more higher than you ought (scripture?)...	I'm the God of your fathers 3:6
(2) verse 3:13 – who are you 'what is his name' who sent me?	I AM has sent you 3:14
(3) verse 4:1 – if they do not believe me or listen to me ' The Lord did not appear to you'?	Signs and wonders – staff became snake; leprous hand restored 4:7
(4) verse 4:10 – I am slow of speech and tongue –	Who gave man his mouth? I will help you speak and will teach ou what to say

(5) verse 4:13 – after all excuses are given,	Moses said, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it!"
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Our new church year, beginning on September 1, started with numerous positive notes: (1) 100K faith challenge – God led us through victorious; (2) groundbreaking on Oct 24 was a new day for TIBC as we begin building a new church; (3) last Sunday, October 31, Council issued a tall call to prepare our move next year.

Fengjun Zhang, Su Yang,

At work

During Agape's Dedication Service, the President of Trustees, Dr. Shenghong Yao, the sort of right-hand man of Pastor Tai testify to the goodness and kindness TIBC extends to Agape in all of the years past. My impact upon his belief in Christ in the workplace, the sharing of testimony and examples of a Christian living – little influence I thought had great effect – good witness

Jonathan Hu I really enjoy conversation with May last week. Thanks for all the advise and encouragement. involvement as Sunday Bible class teacher, continuing your growth in Christ etc. (Many of these support our building financially-we're not alone!)

Weihong Meng

At school

Jimmy Qian "We are in wonderful blessings from the Lord. Since beginning of the year, I am one of the deacon board members. Our church is a small one, around 50 members from various Chinese ethnic groups: HK, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, and of course the majority is students from mainland. We do not have full time pastor. The podium is served by a retired German pastor and some visiting missionaries from the States."

The Psalmist laments, **Psalm 106**<sup>6</sup> *We have sinned, even as our fathers did; we have done wrong and acted wickedly.* <sup>7</sup> *When our fathers were in Egypt, they gave no thought to your miracles; they did not remember your many kindnesses, and they rebelled by the sea, the Red Sea.* What was the wicked sin that Israel had committed? It was their doubt that God would further deliver them, even after he'd performed an incredible miracle, delivering Israel from the mighty Egyptians at the Red Sea. But, can you believe it? Our Lord had moved supernaturally on our behalf, delivering us from the enemy. Yet, **even after** this incredible miracle, we mistrusted him. I know that it was a different story altogether when Israel stood on the victory side of the sea. They sang and danced as they watched the mighty Egyptian army sink to destruction: **Psalm 106**<sup>9-12</sup> *He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up; he led them through the depths as through a desert.* <sup>10</sup> *He saved them from the hand of the foe; from the hand of the enemy he redeemed them.* <sup>11</sup> *The waters covered their adversaries; not one of them survived.* <sup>12</sup> *Then they believed his promises and sang his praise.* The Israelites sang the right song -- a song of praise to almighty God -- but they sang it on the wrong side of the sea. Anyone can sing and rejoice after they've got the victory. Yet, how did these same people react as they faced hardship afterward? They doubted God's faithfulness. Israel had failed miserably on the testing side of the Red Sea. They hadn't trusted God at all there. Our doubting grieves the Lord, provokes him, and causes him much pain.

**P**eople person

**A**uthentic

**S**mart

**T**rustworthy

**O**bservant

**R**esourceful

**J**oyful

**O**rderly

**H**ospitable

**N**eat

**L**oyal

**O**pen-minded

**N**oble

**G**oal-setter

Dear Pastor Long,

Thank you so much for your faithfulness to our God. Thank you for being our shepherd. May God grant you wisdom from above, peace, and strength. May the fruit of the spirit be upon you.

Dear Pastor Long,

You have been a really good pastor. Even when you get a little wild when you play volleyball you are still a really good pastor. Love, Moriah.

You are a really, really, really, really, really, really, really, really, GOOD PASTOR! Pastor Long: thank you for leading us to Jesus. And also thank you for helps your gave to us. May God continue to bless us!

Thank you, Pastor for baptizing me. And taking care of us. William

Daddy, I love you so much that you are so good. To: Dad From: Lynette

Thank you, Pastor, for driving the car. Joshua

Dear John,

I am so grateful that you are the Pastor of TIBC. May you be continually blessed! Chris

John,

Thank you for your consistent faith and kindness to me and my family. You are loved and appreciated more than you know. Love, Phyllis

Pastor Long,

Thank you for your kind and loving heart. Thank you for always going an extra mile to show that you care. May God bless your ministry and use you more mightily. Mary

Phang

Pastor John,

I love you. I'm glad you're my pastor. From: Stephen

Thank you, Pastor Long, for baptizing me! You are so kind! From: Samuel Pangestu

Dear Pastor Long,  
Thank you for being my pastor. Thank you for baptizing me. I love you. Love, Gabrielle Thng  
You are a loving and caring pastor! Daniel Thng

Pastor John,  
Thank you for how you've opened your doors and heart to let me take a part in the ministry of TIBC. I have always observed the joy of the Lord in you – something I admire very much. Janine Ward

Pastor John,  
Thank you so much for your obedience to God's call. Thank you for allowing Him to grow your pastor's heart. Thank you and your family for your sacrifice and willingness to serve. We love you and are praying for you and your family. God is faithful. Love, Karen  
I Thess 5:23

Pastor,  
May 'the' Lord bless you and keep you. May He make His face to shine upon you. I pray that God will grant you a spirit of wisdom, revelation in the knowledge of Him. That he grant you enlightenment that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints and that you may know the incomparable greatness of His mighty power. In Christ, Ken

Pastor Long,  
It was a great pleasure to get to know you. Thank you for the great work you have done for TIBC! Thank you for leading us to Jesus! I would also like to extend my thank to your family!

Thank you very much pastor Long!

Zhong Xin Gan Xie Nin (in Chinese) Pastor Long!

Thank you for baptizing (with t enlarged to stand up as a CROSS) me!

Pastor Long:  
Thanks for your faithful service in the church. Your love means a lot to us. Your works will be remembered forever. May God bless you and your families.

Dear Pastor Long,  
We really appreciate your hard work, dedication, faithfulness and high spirit. We pray that God would continue to protect you and your family, to give you a healthy body and mind. Love, George, Neneng, Ellen and Vanessa.

The Nail-scarred hands

He constantly holds His nail-scarred hands over our heads saying, "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon You and give you peace." If we could realize that , what a difference it would make every day. That's why we say, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." That is why we say, "This is the day the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it.

**Invitation:**