

**Deut 26:11**

***So you shall rejoice in every good thing which the LORD your God has given to you and your house, you and the Levite and the stranger who is among you.***

Happy Wednesday, or what some call, “Hump Day”, meaning we are in the middle of the week on the down side looking forward to the weekend.

So, how’s your week been so far?

*“Oh Steve, you really don’t want to know. I just got handed all this extra work to do, and I don’t even have time to do the stuff I’m supposed to be doing here at work. I really hate my job.”*

I understand it all; up until the last part where you said, *“I really hate my job.”*

But we are so used to making statements like:

*I hate my job.*

*I wish I had another car.*

*I wish I could just move because I really want another place to live.*

*I can’t stand my neighbors and my coworkers.*

*I wish I had a family like that, etc...*

Now stop and think about those things or even the people that you just don’t like, are unhappy with or just down right hate.

Now take those thoughts and line them up with the first half of today’s devotional verse.

*“I hate my job.”* Yet God has given you that job. ***So you shall rejoice in every good thing which the LORD your God has given to you and your house***

*“I wish I had another car.”* Yet God has given you the car that you have. ***So you shall rejoice in every good thing which the LORD your God has given to you and your house***

*“I so want to move. I can’t stand my neighbors and I want to have another place to live.”* Yet God has placed you right where He wants you to live, right next to those He wants you to live next to. ***So you shall rejoice in every good thing which the LORD your God has given to you and your house***

*“My coworkers are idiots and I can’t stand going to work and dealing with them everyday.”* Yet God has given you that job and those people to work with. ***So you shall rejoice in every good thing which the LORD your God has given to you and your house***

*“I wish I had a family like that.”* Yet God has given you your family. ***So you shall rejoice in every good thing which the LORD your God has given to you and your house.***

So if you think about it, when you say or think those things, what you are really saying is, “*God, I hate your blessings.*”

We tend to forget Who our God is and what He does in our lives. We forget that we don’t have that job because we are awesome and got it on our own. No, you have it because God in His goodness wanted to bless you with a job. The same is true about everything else, including where you live, what you drive, who your neighbors are, what you eat, who your family is, and if you think about it, even your health.

Remember this verse in James?

† **James 1:17** *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*

But we confuse it to think that *every good gift and every perfect gift* is what we think is good or perfect for us. Yet it does not say that, it’s what God knows to be good and perfect for each one of us individually.

So you may not like your job, or where you live, or what you eat, etc... But if you have the mindset of God, Who knows that this is a *good and perfect* job for me right now, or a *good and perfect* place for me to live right now, or *good and perfect*???. Then you may start to think differently about what God is doing, and what He has given you in your life.

You may be thinking, “*Well, you don’t know how lousy this job is that I have right now, I can barely make it on what I make and they don’t even appreciate me and all I do for them and that other person got the promotion and...*”

**STOP!!!**

Are you making yourself better than God with that thinking? Do you think you know better than God what you need, or maybe you think God has forgotten you and left you to rot in that place the rest of your life?

God says for both of those.

† **Jeremiah 29:11** *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

† **Job 38:2-3** *“Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.”*

So try and speak this out with the mindset of God, instead of the negative mindset that we are so

used to expressing.

*God, thank You for the good and perfect gift of the \_\_\_\_\_ (you fill in the blank, such as “job”) I have right now*

**† 1 Thessalonians 5:18** *in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*