This morning we considered the principles of God’s blessing as revealed generally throughout the Scriptures, but particularly declared in Psalm 67. This Thanksgiving week is a time when people gather from distant places to “count their blessings” and to give Thanks to the One who is the source of every good and perfect gift. However, if we were to simply go by the news media we might assume that the source of all good things is Best Buy, or perhaps Walmart, and the means to great blessing is strategic Black Friday shopping.

In Psalm 67 we find four principles of God’s blessing which are important for us to consider as we count our blessings and give Thanks, not just during this season but whenever God’s people gather:

1. We must acknowledge God as the only source of every blessing.
2. Those who have been blessed are to bless others
3. These blessings are to be both proclaimed and modeled in our lives
4. Ultimately this results in praise to God and the cycle continues

We watched the Fiddler on the Roof scene of the Sabbath prayer as an illustration of understanding that God is our source and that we are invited to share in blessing one another by His grace.

I also quoted a blog entry written by Bishop David Kendall which noted that Christ “unclaimed” his blessings that we might receive that which was otherwise unattainable for us.

Scripture References which could be considered beyond Psalm 67 might include:
Numbers 6:22-27 – The priestly prayer
1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-12 - Priesthood of all believers
James 1:17 – Every good and perfect gift comes from God
Philippians 2:5-11 - Christ as our model

Points to ponder
- Count your blessings. Share the ways God has extended His grace and peace and blessing in your life, your family.
- Share stories about a time when you have had difficulty receiving or claiming God’s blessings.
- How have you experienced God’s blessings through words or actions of His people?
- Is the idea of releasing a blessing to others exciting, scary, overwhelming? Why?
- Are you hesitant to ask the Lord to bless you? Why? Does this message or understanding of God’s blessings release you to feel free to ask for God to bless you?

Bless one another
- Take time to bless one another by sharing things you appreciate and then pray for God’s blessings to be abundant in the lives of others in your group.