



November 6, 2019

ONE WAY TO KNOW THE BLESSING OF GOD

There is a Psalm that gives praise to God for the support of a community, one of the great gifts in human life. Written as poetry, the prayer of Psalm 133 begins like this:

*How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.*

Two short notes about the language of this prayer:

1. Kindred is a word that we can translate as community. It means both the kinship of family and the bonds of good friends and the community of faith. In ancient Israel, these community circles were all intertwined.
2. A gift of oil on a person's head was an act of loving kindness. Ritually, it signified the blessing of God. In this Psalm, the oil is over-abundant. It runs down the beard and over the collar. That's a lot of blessing.

So, to translate the logic of this poetic prayer, we can say that whenever you have experienced the goodness of community in your life, you have known the blessing of God for you.

In the scriptures, God is not always known in flashes of light, or a burning bush, or an angelic visitation. To look for the experience of God in our lives, we should look to the blessing which comes from the person who sits beside you, and the blessing which is given by you to the people in your life.

I'll see you in church.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster
Senior Minister