

**MAY YOU HAVE**

Enough happiness  
to keep you sweet.

Enough trials  
to keep you strong.

Enough sorrow  
to keep you human.

Enough hope  
to keep you happy.

Enough failure  
to keep you humble.

Enough success  
to keep you eager.

Enough friends  
to give you comfort.

Enough wealth  
to meet your needs.

Enough enthusiasm  
to look forward.

Enough faith  
to banish depression.

Enough determination  
to make each day  
better than yesterday.

I recently found this bookmark as I sorted through some files, and it got me thinking—and I hope it will do the same for you!

Who would you like to receive these things? Family, close friends, business acquaintances? What about the person who cut you off in traffic? Or the person you thought was a friend but hurt you so badly? How about the person who entered the US illegally and raped a young girl? Or the terrorist who blew themselves up and took a hundred innocent people with them? I could go on and on with people we don't feel kindly towards. Personal and national enemies. Neighbors who are not kind to us.

The "problem" is that God loves each of our "enemies." They were created in God's own image, just as we were. God knew them before they were born. God formed them in their mother's womb, just as He did for us. [Jeremiah 1:5, Psalm 139:13-18] Do you suppose God weeps over their life-choices? Do you suppose God weeps over our choices, sometimes, too?

None of us are perfect. That acknowledgement is the beginning of the ABC's of Salvation. **A** = Admit we are not perfect (in church language, we are all sinners). Because of our free will, we have sometimes gone against God's perfect will. Our sin, our choice to do what we want rather than what God wants, makes us ineligible for heaven. God is so pure and holy that He cannot tolerate even the smallest stain of sin.

So, what can we do? Is there any hope for us? An old hymn still rings true: "What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus."

Jesus' sacrifice is the only way to atone for our sins. **B**elieving that Jesus

is the Son of God, who died for our sins, and rose again to eternal life, is our way of claiming "God's Riches at Christ's Expense" GRACE!

Now, it's just a matter of **C**ommitting to living out our faith: live it, speak it, share it. Another verse in this hymn says: "This is all my hope and peace: nothing but the blood of Jesus." May you find your hope and peace in Jesus Christ, the only true source!

And don't forget to **B**ee **A** Disciple!

*Pastor Barre*

