

Blessed Blissfulness

Scripture: Mt. 5:1-12

Intro: These final Beatitudes deal with the Christian's testimony to a lost humanity and the reaction it creates in the lives of many of its people with the attitude it should evoke from the Christian.

1. Peace with God (Ro. 5:1; Col. 1:19-21)
2. Peace of God (Phil. 4:7)
3. Peace from God (Jn. 14:27; Col. 1:2)

I. Blessed Are the Peacemakers (Mt. 5:9)

- A. Condition of the sinners = strife. (Ro. 8:7; Jas 4:4)
 1. Hostile inwardly. (Eph. 4:18)
 2. Hopeless eternally. (Rev. 14:10-11)
- B. Commission of the Saints = service. (II Cor. 5:17-20)
 1. His following prince of peace = peaceable. (Ro. 12:18; Jas. 3:17; Heb. 12:14)
 - a. He is not vindictive. (Ro. 12:19-21)
 - b. His is called "children of God"
 2. He follows peacemaker course. (Mt. 5:9; Eph. 4:3)
 - a. contrast: cursed are peace-breakers.
 - b. consider: course with a cause. (Job 22:21)
 1. prayer that averts disaster. (Ex. 32:10; Num. 12:1-10)
 2. preaching that converts depraved. (Ro. 10:9-15)

II. Blessed Are the Persecuted (Mt. 5:10-12)

- A. The Blessedness of the badly treated. (I Pet. 4:15)
 1. Persecution for "righteousness sake". (II Tim. 3:12)
 - a. Revile you: Godless detest the Godly, carnal dislike the Spiritual.
 - b. Lie about you: slander. (Heb. 12:3)
 2. Persecuted and right reaction. (Mt. 5:11-12; Jas. 1:12)
 - a. Rejoice: because it is false and undeserved. (Jn. 15:19-20)
 - b. Reward: because it honors the Lord: you are in prophetic company.
- B. The Believer's bad treatment Heavenward. (Acts 9:4-5)
 1. Satanic attempt to destroy believer's usefulness.
 2. Savior's affectionate feelings to believer. (Ro. 8:18; II Cor. 4:16-18)

III. Blessed Are the Praisers (Mt. 5:12)

- A. Gladness of the persecuted: "exceeding glad". (Mt. 5:12)
 1. When gladness has been exceeded it is rejoicing. (Lk. 6:22-23)
 2. Where grace is needed it is supplied. (II Cor. 12:9-10)
- B. Glowiness of the persecuted: "counted worthy". (Acts 5:40-41)
 1. Religious crowd won't like you.
 2. Riotous crowd won't live around you.
 3. Righteous crowd will love you.