

Sermon Mark S. Aites  
**THE BEATITUDES OF REVELATION**  
(Special Thanks To Bros. Boren & Pack)

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. Among the favorite portions of the Sermon on the Mount, is a portion which we call the beatitudes (**Matt. 5:3-11**).
2. Beatitudes is derived from a word which means “blessedness” or “happy.”
3. One author in a published work refers to them as “the happy attitudes.”
4. In fact, as you read the beatitudes, some have translated them substituting the word happy for the word blessed.
5. For example: **Matt. 5:3** *“Happy are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*
6. The messages of beatitudes are inspirational and do promise happiness as a reward.
7. The suffering saints of the 1st century were in need of encouragement.
  - 1) Revelation affords such encouragement.
  - 2) It is a book which puts forth the premise of victory in Jesus, and the happiness which will follow suffering for the faithful.
9. The book of Revelation contains seven of these beatitudes.

**DISCUSSION:**

**I. 1:3 “Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.”**

- A. Penned in approx. 96 A.D., the book of Revelation was only read probably by a few in comparison to today.
  1. Writings such as this were not massed produced on printing presses.
  2. One writer notes: “This probably accounts for the singular “he that readeth” as opposed to “they that hear.”
  3. Even so, the message contained herein can have great meaning for us today.
- B. We are reminded that at the time this was penned Christians were being severely tested.
  1. Boren in his writings of this account notes: “All the fury of sword, rack, flame, and ravenous beast would effect martyrdom upon thousands of members of the Lord’s church. And this hideous ruthlessness was to continue, with only occasional and brief interludes, for over 200 years.”
  2. The challenge was not only for the early Christians to know the truths of God’s word, but to keep them as well.
  3. We must remember that to them, it must have seemed as though evil was winning in the battle.
    - 1) They were watching their own family members being slowly tortured to death.
    - 2) Horrible cruelties were being perpetuated by the kingdom of darkness.
  4. Paul sought in his writings also to encourage suffering Christians:  
**Eph. 6:13** *“Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”*
  5. One writer observed: “While our weapons are not carnal (**2 Cor. 10:4**), the enemy does not always limit himself accordingly.” (Ibid.)
- C. The encouragement of the beatitude is to read, hear, and keep the things written in this book, for *“the time is near.”*
  1. Hailey in his works notes: This “provides strong motivation for obedience in

keeping the things heard, for the things to be revealed; the woes, fears, the battle, and the hope; were in the near future.”

D. Can we not also draw encouragement from this beatitude?

1. At times perhaps we feel like quitting; like we have endured all that we can.
2. We must continue on, and keep the things written in God’s word.
3. **Gal. 6:9** *“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”*

**II. 14:13 “Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.”**

A. As with the first beatitude, this one is also written in light of the historical setting of the 1st century.

B. **Rev. 14** opens with a vision in a very encouraging way, depicting the righteous in a scene of triumph and victory with the Lamb.

1. The admonitions which follow from the angels are to worship and reverence and God.
2. And also the warning to those who would “worship the beast.”
3. It was the age old message preached long before by Joshua: *“Choose you this day whom you will serve...”*
4. The choice of righteousness is scene very favorably in victory with the Lamb; the choice in following evil, that of judgment and punishment.
5. Hailey writes: “As the day of the righteous is glorious, eternal day, the night of the wicked is dreadful, eternal night; the two side by side continuing simultaneously. What a terrible price to pay for rejecting the Christ and bowing Caesar as Lord.”

C. Note **vs 12**: *“Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.”*

D. John then reveals the beatitude from heaven.

1. Blessed or happy are the dead which die in the Lord (that is in a proper relationship with the Lord).
2. Boren again states: “How comforting for those faithful ones to know this truth as they faced the beheader’s axe or the ghastly arenas of Rome.”

E. Even before the apostle Paul died, he left us the encouraging words:

**2 Tim. 4:6-8** *“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.*

**7** *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:*

**8** *Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”*

F. This beatitude affords us comfort and encouragement as well, recognizing that no matter in what century we live and die, the truth remains the same.

**Psa. 116:15** *“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.”*

G. Again it is expressed: “The Creator of all things and the Giver of life and all blessings, has in store for his family joys unspeakable and full of glory. No human eye has every seen anything so magnificent as the celestial city of God.” (Ibid.)

H. Certainly the admonition for us is to so live that when we die, we die in the Lord.

**III.16:15 "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."**

- A. This verse occurs in a section of the outpouring of the bowls of the wrath of God; it refers to His punishments upon the evil and ungodly.
  - 1. Throughout this magnificent book, and by far my absolute favorite (because of the encouragement it gives me), God reveals the punishments to be brought upon the ungodly
  - 2. In chapters 8-11 depicted through the blowing of the trumpets; to here, the bowls of wrath.
- B. This beautiful beatitude is given following the sixth bowl of wrath.
  - 1. In the midst of these judgments, the voice comes through with the warning that the Lord would come as a thief.
  - 2. The times of judgment belong to God. His time table is not according to man's.
- C. In view of the coming judgments, the Christian would be happy and wise if:
  - 1. He remained watchful (**1 Pet. 5:8**).
  - 2. He kept his garments.
    - 1. Repeatedly in this great work, the writer speaks of the faithful clothed in white.
    - 2. **Jas. 1:27** *"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."*
    - 3. The challenge was of course to keep from staining one's garments with sin.
  - 4. Early in this great book is the reference to the church at Sardis.
    - Rev. 3:4-5** *"You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.*
    - 5** *"He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels."*
  - 5. Even as Paul wrote of the church: **Eph. 5:27** *"That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."*
  - 6. The dishonor would be to walk without a white garment in nakedness and shame.
- D. Even in our day and circumstances, the challenges of this passage we can take seriously also.
  - 1. We have a need to remain watchful at all times (**Matt. 24:42**).
  - 2. There is the need to keep our garments spotless; for in failing to do so, we find ourselves unready for the final judgment of God.
  - 3. If we are careful about these things, then we have a reason to be happy.

**IV.19:9a "Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'"**

- A. This is a three-fold chapter setting forth a message of victory (Ibid.).
  - 1. It opens with the proclamation of the hallelujahs of victory.
  - 2. It contains also the marriage supper of the Lamb.
  - 3. And closes with the defeat of the two beasts; or generally speaking, the overthrow of that which was evil.
- B. "Through all her trials and tribulations, the bride has made herself ready for this event.

Because she has made herself ready, she is granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white (vs 8). This is undoubtedly symbolic of her purity and holiness.” (Ibid.)

- C. He continues: “Think of it. The church, washed and made clean, justified and sanctified, adorned in fine linen, bright and white, ready to meet the bridegroom.” (Ibid.)
- D. Some of the Lord’s parables prepare us for the reading of this section of scripture.
  - 1. There is the parable of the 10 virgins in **Matt. 25:1-13**, in which we learn of the 5 wise and 5 foolish virgins.
    - 1) Five of them had to go out and buy oil when the bridegrooms coming was announced, and as a result the door was shut.
    - 2) This great parable followed Jesus talking of His return (**Matt. 24:36ff**).
  - 2. The other parable that helps in reading this passage, is that of the marriage feast (**Matt. 22:1-14**).
    - 1) It is a parable about those invited to the marriage feast who refused to come.
    - 2) Consequently it was opened to whoever would come.
    - 3) But one in the feast was found not to be properly attired was cast into outer darkness.
- E. Bro. Pack writes of this great marriage feast: “The custom in Bible times of consummating a marriage with a wedding feast where guests rejoiced with the bride and groom is background for the description of the coming again of the Messiah as the marriage supper of the Lord. How wonderful it will be to share in the glory of the marriage supper and to have part in the triumph and rejoicing of the saints.”
- F. There is no greater marriage feast one could ever attend.
  - 1. It is a joy which awaits the faithful children of God.
  - 2. We must work diligently to be prepared to attend the greatest feast we could ever attend

**V. 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”**

- A. **Rev. 20** is a chapter filled with symbolism, and is often twisted by those who advocate the premillennial theory (the belief that the Lord will return to this earth to reign for 1,000 yrs).
  - 1. The tragedy is that the premillennialist takes the symbolism of the chapter as figurative and takes the 1,000 yrs as literal.
  - 2. Such provides a false interpretation.
- B. This is a victorious chapter, in which we learn of the binding of satan.
- C. This is perhaps one of the most difficult chapters in scripture, even some of the best speakers in our brotherhood not entirely agreeing on what is meant by the “first resurrection.”
  - 1. Some believe that the first resurrection refers to us when we become Christians, hence the process of conversion.
  - 2. Others believe it refers to when the soul leaves the body “to go live and reign with Christ.”
  - 3. Other views are espoused as well.
- D. Regardless of what view you hold to, the importance of this beatitude is the comforting

thought that the faithful children of God will not be hurt by the 2nd death.

1. The 2nd death is not one which requires the level of reasoning that the first resurrection does.
  2. **Rev. 20:13-15** *"The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.  
14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.  
15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."*
  3. The faithful of God do not fear the punishments of hell, because what awaits us is far better:  
**Rev. 21:4** *"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."*
- E. Of the faithful, John says, *they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."*
1. Children of God are indeed priests of Christ:  
**1 Pet. 2:9** *"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."*
  2. And we indeed also have the promise of reigning with Him: **2 Tim. 2:12** *"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us."*
  3. The thousand years is but figurative of a designated period of time.
- F. The message of the beatitude is actually very comforting. Those that overcome will be blessed to reign with Christ.
1. **Rev. 3:21** *"To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."*
  2. Those who overcome need not fear the punishments of God.

**VI.22:7 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."**

- A. This is from perhaps one of the most, if not the most, comforting passage in the word of God.
1. **Rev. 22** is comforting to all the children of God, for here man regains that which he lost early in his existence.
  2. In **Gen. 3** he lost his right to the tree of life because of sin, but here he regains the privilege of that blessed tree.
  3. **Rev. 22:1-5** *"And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.  
2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.  
3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.  
4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.  
5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever."*

- B. To enjoy the blessings of what we read of here, the admonition of the beatitude is to *"keep the words of the prophecy of this book."*
  - 1. Long ago Solomon wrote those oft quoted words: **Eccl. 12:13** *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."*
  - 2. In **Luke 11:28**, Jesus said *"blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."*
- C. There is a great contentment, and approval of conscience when we know that we are keeping the word of God.
  - 1. **Prov. 4:23** *"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."*
  - 2. "Those that treasure God's will, and keep it to the very best of their ability will truly be blessed." (Ibid.)

**VII.22:14 Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city."**

- A. This passage is rendered somewhat differently in the KJV and the ASV of 1901.
  - 1. The KJV: "Blessed are they that do His commandments."
  - 2. The ASV: "Blessed are they that wash their robes."
- B. Some scholars hold to the ASV as being the better rendering.
  - 1. Pack notes: "Either reading finds parallels in other passages in the book but the better manuscripts have the reading found in the ASV. This is the last beatitude of the book. The ones that have the right to come to the tree of life are those that have "washing their robes" in the redeeming blood of the Lamb."
  - 2. But to avoid being dogmatic, either rendering lends to overcoming, and having the right to the tree of life and the heavenly city.
    - 1) Obedience of the commandments of God is important to acceptance with God (**John 14:15; Heb. 5:8-9**).
    - 2) Being washed in the blood of the Lamb is also necessary to be accepted with God, since it is the blood of Christ that cleanses us of our sins.
- C. There is a two fold blessing afforded in this beatitude:
  - 1. The right to the tree of life, its importance made plain to us in the account of the fall of man in the garden of Eden:  
**Gen. 3:22-23** *"Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"*  
**23** *therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken."*
  - 2. The other blessing, the city of God. It is said of righteous Abraham: **Heb. 11:10** *"For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."*
  - 3. **Rev. 21:1-2** *"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea."*  
**2** *Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."*
- D. We keep the word of God to the best of our ability that we may have the right to both of these wonderful blessings.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. The beatitudes of Revelation provide tremendous hope and comfort even for us today.
2. "We are too far removed in time, distance and circumstances to really fathom the depth of 'testing' the fires of persecution wrought among them. They surely needed all the help they could get. Their family and their kinsmen in Christ could provide only so much strength, as they shared their plight together. But they needed more than human hands can provide." (Ibid.)
3. Likewise, we appreciate the support of our family in Christ, but at times we need more than human hands can provide.
4. The beatitudes are sources of comfort which we can still find useful for Christian living in our time.
5. The key is to so live as to overcome, and be blessed with a crown of life.
6. Are you a Christian? You can't overcome the world without Christ.
7. Plan of salvation
8. Christians, are you struggling? Perhaps you need the prayers of the church? You may well need more than what we mere humans can provide, the forgiveness and strength and blessings of God.