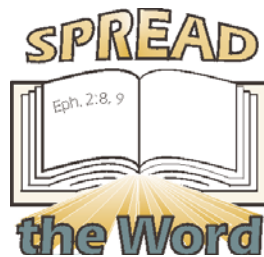


The Beatitude of the True Scale of Values

**taken from
Matthew 5**

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The Beatitude of the True Scale of Values

Tonight we're in Matthew 5, starting in verse 6. In verse 3 we have the word "blessed." In verse 4 we have the word "blessed." In verse 5 we have the word "blessed." In verses 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 you have the word "blessed."

And then in verse 12 we have "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad." The word "blessed" means happinesses. It's never mentioned in the singular. It's always plural whether it's Hebrew or Greek. Which means that there are two kinds of happiness in the world, inner and outer. It begins on the inside and works its way to the outer. We're studying how to be happy.

The first one we studied was in verse 3, "Blessed are the poor in spirit." It has nothing to do with your pocketbook. Every time you think of the word "poor" people think of it from the human viewpoint. It's not talking about economy. This is "poor in spirit." "Poor in spirit" means a person who is lost, without Christ, without hope, without eternal life.

When you see the word "spirit," it's talking about the human spirit. And it means that this person is destitute of human spirit, which means that he is a natural man. He came into the world like all of us, physically alive and spiritually dead, and he just has a soul and a body. A person who is destitute of spirit means that he is an unbeliever. So, how could an unbeliever, how can a member of the human race, how can anyone of us who comes into the human race apart from Christ have happiness?

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for their's is the kingdom of Heaven." "Kingdom of Heaven" is a term for believers. All believers are involved with the kingdom of Heaven. You have to be a believer.

So, what is the first lesson? You came into this world lost, without Christ, and the only happiness that you can have at that point that is lasting and has any permanency is accept Christ as your Saviour. That's where happiness begins! So, life begins at the cross. Happiness begins at the cross.

Apart from Jesus Christ and salvation, all you have is human happiness, and human happiness depends upon circumstances. If you don't have to pay income tax you're happy. If you do, you're sad. And so on.

The second one is "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." This is progressive. Now we're talking about believers. This person has accepted Christ as Saviour. Now you have circumstances in life that would call for mourning. For example, the loss of a loved one. That would be a principle of mourning.

So, what is the happiness to a believer in time who has pressure situations? "They shall be comforted." In other words, as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, cursing is turned to blessing. Any time you're in a principle of mourning or suffering, catastrophe or tragedy, God turns cursing into blessing simply by keeping your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, claiming the promises of God, and He will comfort you.

"Comfort" is a word that's used for the Lord Jesus Christ. It's also used for God the Father and God the Holy Spirit and it's used for the Word of God. So, the comfort you get is from the Trinity and from the Word of God.

Principle 3. "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the Earth." This doesn't mean someone who never raises their eyes, never one who speaks dogmatically. "Meek" has nothing to do with any over activity whatsoever. "Meek" doesn't mean a person who stands round-shouldered, who's afraid to use the first person singular, "I."

A meek person is a mental attitude. Meekness is mentality. A meek person means a person who is Grace oriented. So, if you are a believer and you're Grace oriented, then you will inherit the Earth, which means that you have a future. This is written to Israel, so Israel has a future. All of their blessings are earthly, but ours are heavenly. So, the application to us is, if you're Grace oriented, remember that you have a future.

Now, verse 6 is where we start tonight with the fourth principle. How is all of this accomplished? How do we get to what is necessary for happiness in time, as far as a believer is concerned? So, this beatitude, this blessing, is for thirsting for the Word, or the beatitude of the TRUE SCALE OF VALUES. Everybody has values, the things that they feel are most important in their lives. But, the Bible gives you the true scale of values.

If the Word of God is first on your scale of values, then you will develop a thirst for the Word. In other words, you do whatever you want to do. Some people are interested in the Word, and some people are not. And some people may live across the street, as it were, and they wouldn't walk across the street for the Word. Some people come miles and go through all sorts of things to get the Word of God. Very few Christians in the 21st century are interested in the Word of God. So, there's relatively very little thirst for the Word.

Most people, after they become Christians, because they're not interested in the Word of God, live like any other unbeliever. And they follow their own personality patterns, so that you cannot distinguish between the average Christian and the unbeliever. The average believer does not know enough of the Word of God even to know how to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.

If you have friends who are believers and you get into a conversation about talking about the Lord and the Word, ask them sometime a question like "How is it possible to be controlled by God the Holy Spirit?" You'll be surprised at the answers that you get. You ask a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ how he knows, or how to get back into fellowship when he gets out of fellowship. You ask another person how you go about claiming the Promises of God, or do you know that there is such a principle?

The average Christian doesn't know how to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. The average Christian doesn't know how to get back into fellowship when they're out of fellowship. And the average Christian doesn't know how

to claim the Promises of God because of those other two problems. So, then, consequently they are mainly out of fellowship most of the time.

The Christian way of life has changes that no unbeliever can duplicate. One of the lessons that I learned a long time ago that stuck with me, that has helped me in my thinking is: **anything that the unbeliever can do is not Christianity!** In other words, if you do something and the unbeliever can do it, then it has nothing to do with Christianity. The unbeliever can give up certain habits. The unbeliever can not dance, or not smoke, or not lie, or be a moral person. But, **anything that the unbeliever can do is not Christianity** because the things of Christianity are something that unbelievers can never do!

For example, the true concept of humility. The unbeliever can never do that. Most believers can't do that. What is the true concept of humility? Forgiving as Christ forgave. There are not too many believers that do that. When you forgive as Christ forgave, that means that you forget it! A lot of people are forgiving with tongue in cheek, and then they remember it and just wait for you to do something and then they're ready to pounce on you.

How about "Love one another?" That's another concept of Christianity. The unbeliever thinks that by loving one another it means to give them certain things, or hug them, or the concept today about "love one another" is "SMILE." You know, these little buttons. And that's supposed to be "loving one another." Well, there are things that are found in the Word of God that unbelievers are unable to execute. Inner changes are the ones that are important! And the inner changes are the ones always emphasized in the Bible.

So, verse 6 is about the happiness of thirsting for the Word. Now, you have in verse 6 "Blessed." Again, the word means inner happiness. It means happiness in relationship to God. It means happiness to the believer in this life. It depends on love for

and absorption of the Word of God. The believer who desires the Word, and learns the Word and applies the Word, it means that believer who reaches the point of maturity and stability.

In verse 6 it says "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst." "Hunger and thirst" again are two principles of faith, like eating and drinking, the concept that you have in communion, for example. "Hunger and thirst" are present tenses, which means that your desire for the Word has to be continuous.

Present tense. It should read "always hunger and always thirst." The active voice is that the individual believer produces the action of the verb. This is one of the most important verses in the Bible because this answers all the rest. If you're a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, whatever it takes, you have to get to the point where you have a thirst for the Word of God. If you don't, you're in deep trouble. That's it.

That's something that you should pray about. That's something that we should all pray about. If we're positive to the Word, then we should pray that we should constantly keep that desire, no matter what.

You know, it's very interesting as we go through life we all face problems and difficulties. And you feel that as you grow older they will desist. But that's not true. As you grow older, they still continue. It seems to me that as you get older, they even get more severe. But the pressures that come to you through your job, or anything that happens to you in this world, has no bearing on your soul whatsoever.

In other words, the real you is your soul! As long as you're positive to the Word of God, then the things of this life cannot bother you! Because they are superficial. Now, you may have things, you may not have things. You may have difficulties and disasters, but, you see, if you allow those things to cause you to get apathetic about the Word of God, or to neglect the Word of God, then it's you that is shutting off your life, and then those outer things can hurt

you. But, those outer things cannot hurt you if you are positive to the Word of God.

So, when a pressure situation comes along, that's really a testing as to whether or not you're positive to the Word of God. Because if you're positive, those things will exist, but they will not break your relationship with the Lord.

We have something coming up in Jeremiah where these people were taken from Jerusalem and marched to Babylon in chains and people were murdered, killed, and raped and then they went into captivity minus any details whatsoever for years and came out and started a tremendous nation, which was born in captivity. How in the world can they do it? Well, we'll study how they did it. It's right here.

They had a positive attitude towards the Word of God. They had no details in life, no relationship with people, everything was taken from them. They were tortured, raped, murdered, in shackles, and they came out successful and started a rather vigorous nation.

They were lead out of there by a man by the name of Ezra, by the way. Ezra was a young boy. He went into captivity as a young boy. He saw people murdered and babies killed, tortured, chained. And yet when he came out, he led that remnant of believers out of captivity and they rebuilt the temple.

This is an important verse, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst." It's a present tense. This should be a pattern of life. Active voice, you produce the action. Participle sets up the principle. So, the active voice here is very important because the active voice indicates a desire for something connected with positive volition.

Each one of us has volition. In our volition we have positive and negative poles. This says that you can do whatever you want to do. So, the active voice here indicates positive volition. Hunger and thirst are positive attitudes.

Did you ever get a hunger or thirst for a particular thing and you can't go to sleep until you get it? Sometimes you get up in the

middle of the night looking for that place that is open 24 hours a day. It may be Baskin Robbins. It may be some hamburger. It varies. But you just hunger and thirst for a certain thing and you just have to have it or you can't get to sleep.

Now, we have hunger and thirst for things in life, and yet we can't transfer that into the spiritual realm because we have blind spots. The principle is this: God is faithful. If you want to get the Word, you will get it!!! That's the point. See, it starts with you. The rest is in His hands. If you say "Lord, I want the Word of God. I need the Word of God," you're going to get it. Most people don't want it. Or, they don't want to be inconvenienced. Bible class is a good test to see if you're positive to the Word, or not. And to see if it's too inconvenient for you.

You know, we have a tremendous relationship, whether you know it or not, in the Bible classes. It's not that we don't have it on Sunday, but Sunday is more or less a traditional thing. So, when you have people coming on a Thursday night, which is an off night, that's tremendous! That's saying that we have people in our area, who, on their scale of values, value the Word of God more than anything in life. You can't lose with that! There's no way that you can lose.

It's really interesting because we started about 10 years ago in someone's home. These people came after me, forced me, into teaching a Bible class that I didn't even want to be interested in. We haven't deviated from that concept of teaching and teaching and teaching. God has always blessed us, myself and all of us together. So, Bible class then is a good test to see if people are positive or not, and to see whether or not it's too inconvenient.

"Hunger and thirst" express positive volition and two great desires that we have in life. When you hunger and thirst, then you go on positive signals, and in context here it's food and beverage. We go to great lengths at some times to obtain food and beverage. The desire is there, so you go for what you desire. This is true of the Word of God too. Just as

you hunger for food, so you have to hunger for the Word of God.

Then it says "after righteousness." This is righteousness in fulfilling Divine statutes. This is categories of doctrine. The Divine statutes means application of doctrine to experience. God's righteousness can only be fulfilled in the believer and by the believer when he has God's mental attitude and when he has Bible doctrine in his mind!

In John 13:17 we have a parallel verse to this. In other words, sometimes one verse describes another verse, and vice versa. So, I would jot down if I were you John 13:17, because it says this, "If you know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." This "if" is a first class condition, so John assumes in John 13:17 that the readers know the Word.

"Know" is a perfect tense used as a present tense for the Word of God in your mind. "These things" of John 13:17 refer to the Word. He says "If you know doctrine, and you do, then happy are ye."

The word "happy" in this verse is the same word we have here as "blessed," which is inner happiness. "Blessed are ye." "You keep on being blessed." "If," and it's a third class condition, maybe yes, maybe not. And then "if" also expresses volition. "If you do them." First of all, you must learn them. And they did learn them because he says "and you do." Then he says "if you do them." "Do them" is a third class condition which is potential, and they weren't to that point yet. So, first you must learn them and then you must do them. Doing them is just the application. It's "Be not hearers only, but doers of the Word of God," James 1:22.

For this beatitude here in verse 6 looks at it from the point of "Do you desire the Word of God or not?" See, that's the question that you ask yourself. Do you desire the Word of God or not? If you "hunger and thirst after Divine statutes" then it says that you will be filled. The word "for" is the result clause, HOTI. The result is that you will be filled, future tense. This is that nomic future which indicates again a logical progression. "If you

thirst for the Word. then you are going to be satisfied." That's a promise! If you hunger for doctrine, then you're going to get it! If you hunger for doctrine, you get it and you'll be filled and satisfied.

Here's the word for "satisfied." I don't want you to take offense at this. CHORTAS-THESONTAI. That's the word that you have "filled." This word comes from two words: CHORTOS, which is green grass. The other part of it means to feed and to fatten cattle. I don't want you to think that you're a fat cow, but that's the connotation from the ancient world. It's brought out also in Mark 6:39.

So, it's taking it from the agricultural world. So, if you're hungry and you thirst, then you're going to be filled, just like an animal filled and fattened. Like, "The fat is the Lord's." That type of concept.

The point is here, when a person is hungry and that person eats something, then the result is that the food gives him a sense of well-being. This is why some people become compulsive eaters. You know they have Eaters Anonymous and all of that stuff. This is one of the reasons right here. When they get into some kind of a jam, or some kind of a pressure or problem, a meal makes some people sublimate. A lot of people sublimate with a bottle, but a lot sublimate with food.

Now, a full stomach, as it were, gives a person a sense of well-being. Then they have, more or less, a sense of peace and relaxation, and they're content. This is exactly what happens when you take in the Word. That's why you have the verse "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." If you're hungry for the Word, then you will get the Word. If you learn the Word and get it into you mind, then you'll have this marvelous inner happiness and inner peace which is mentioned here in the word "blessed."

Here is the principle that we've seen in these first three beatitudes: Inner happiness is available in every phase of God's plan and in addition to that, also the secret in the Christian way of life is concerned by simply

knowing the Word of God. So, these are responsive characteristics.

I want you to notice that if a person is destitute of spirit, he receives salvation. These are responses. Salvation is the "Kingdom of Heaven." If a person is mourning, then that person shall receive comfort. See, they're all responses. If a person is oriented to Grace, then they'll receive an inheritance. If a person hungers and thirsts, then they will receive filling and satisfaction.

Now, remember that the sermon here is a sermon in the mountains, plural, and it's actually a crash program for the disciples. See, the Lord, here, has departed from the multitudes and He's teaching the disciples to prepare them to go out and have a short, but very important ministry to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

The other part of this passage is found in Matthew 10 where the disciples are chosen and sent out. So, Matthew 5 and 6 are directed towards the disciples.

Then in chapter 7 it is directed towards the multitudes, which eventually filter in and come into the same mountainous region. So, we have seen the first inner happiness, those who are destitute in spirit are filled with salvation. The second inner happiness is those who suffer are filled with comfort. The third inner happiness is those who are oriented to Grace will have a future and they will be fulfilled. The fourth inner happiness is those who are positive to the Word will be satisfied.

You have salvation. You have suffering. You have a future. And you have a positive attitude towards the Word, plus Grace orientation.

Verse 7. Here is the beatitude of Operation Grace. "Blessed" is a nominative, masculine, singular adjective, meaning inner happiness in relationship to God. "Blessed are the merciful." The word "merciful" refers to a compassionate believer. It's a mental attitude Grace which results in treating other people in Grace.

The word "mercy" is Grace in action, or Grace applied, or the response of Grace.

“Mercy” means the application of Grace to the experience.

So, “Blessed are the merciful” means two things: This is a person who has the Word of God in his mind and he’s continually oriented to the Grace of God. Secondly, it results in him treating others in Grace – not on the basis of whether they earn it or deserve it or not.

So, inner happiness for those who are oriented to Grace with an overflow to others. In other words, we are then, as believers, channels of Grace. This verse then would be the making of some term that is obscure in the 21st century, and it’s the term “gentleman.” A “gentleman” is not someone who only has manners. But, it’s someone who has thoughtfulness towards others regardless of who and what they are, regardless of their status in life, or any other factor.

So, you can see from this definition that there are very few gentlemen around. Not only from the standpoint of manners, but from the standpoint of thoughtfulness of other people.

So, this is what we would call the “gentleman’s beatitude,” or the inner happiness to gentlemen. In order to be merciful you must think Grace. So we have a principle: It’s impossible to constantly be thinking Grace unless you know the mind of Christ. The mind of Christ is strictly Bible doctrine, or the Word of God, or the Divine Viewpoint of life.

The principle is: Divine happiness then is manifested by the expression of Grace, when Grace is the thought pattern, the motivation, in fact, the whole mental life of the believer. Once more. What is required of us as believers here in this verse? This is what is required: Divine happiness is manifested by the expression of Grace, when Grace is the thought pattern and the motivation, in fact, the whole mental life of the believer. It says “Inner happiness to the merciful. for they shall obtain mercy.” It’s like a chain reaction. This refers to a believer who operates under the principle of Grace.

I want you to notice: “Inner happiness to the merciful. for they shall obtain mercy.” In every

one of these beatitudes you receive something. There’s a response. So, Grace is always met with Grace by God. In other words, **if you treat people in Grace, and you think Grace, it’s always going to come back to you. It’s always met by God!**

If you think Grace, if you live by Grace, if you’re oriented to Grace, then God can only deal with you in Grace. When you have a rapport of Grace with God in your life, then you have maximum blessings that you can receive in this life. In other words, if you’re constantly Grace oriented in your life, not only in your thought pattern towards the Lord, but the overflow to other people, then that’s maximum blessing in this life.

So, “Obtaining mercy,” then is obtaining Grace in action, or Grace in time. The future tense, again, is a logical future. It means logically, as a result of the believer thinking Grace, or the result of the believer living Grace, you cannot help but receive Grace from God. So, if you’re interested in receiving Grace from God, then you need to be Grace oriented, think Grace oriented, and treat other people in Grace.

It’s a passive voice, which indicates that you receive it, and you don’t earn or deserve it. The indicative mood is the reality of blessing through Grace thinking and through the application of Grace in your life.

Let’s take up a couple of points on the beatitude of Operation Grace. This is really missing in our time. Very few people are gracious. You know, believers or unbelievers. It seems like in the time that we live in that everybody is climbing everybody else’s frame. And trying to build their happiness on someone else’s unhappiness. It’s almost like Christian voodoo. We treat each other worse than we treat the unbeliever.

Do you ever notice that when we’re interested in trying to witness to the unbeliever, oh, we’re so nice to them and we overlook so many things in them because we want to give them the Gospel? But, then you meet another believer within your family, and, you know, that whole principle goes down the drain.

Point 1). Grace always depends on the character of the person, not upon the merit of another. When you treat people in Grace you do this not because they deserve it, but because it is a part of your inherent character. Inherent character depends on what you think, not what goes on on the outside, but what goes on in your mind.

Point 2). Under Grace no one ever earns or deserves anything from God. NO BODY! So, the fact holds true: under Grace no one ever earns or deserves anything from you. This is a very relaxed way to live, which keeps you from getting irritated with anyone who is irritating or antagonistic, or maligning, or is implacable in their attitude towards you. But, it does one other thing. Once you start relaxing, you stop minding everyone else's business. Boy, that's a virtue! In other words, the principle is very simple: live and let live.

I was talking to someone yesterday who is oriental. They were telling me out of the clear blue sky that someone was trying to make them believe what they believed. Can you imagine that? I said "Well, that's wrong. You have the right to believe what you want to believe." She said "I think you're right. I don't like these people who come knocking on my door and trying to get me to believe a certain principle." I said "Well, that's wrong because they are violating your privacy. If you ask someone to come, or someone calls you on the phone and says 'May I come over?' and you say 'Yes,' that's fine. But for someone to just knock on your door and try to intrude on your privacy, that's out!"

That's the principle of "live and let live." I said, "Now, you may believe a certain thing and I may believe a certain thing, but I respect your beliefs, and I would fight for your rights to believe the way that you want and you fight for my rights to believe the way that I believe." She said "That's the way I feel, too." Then she said, "What do you believe?" I said "It's not Buddha." So, we got into that. I said that all she had to do is make up her mind if this is a true fact. You just look at it and you decide.

It's the principle of live and let live. In other words, **stop trying to superimpose yourself on others!** When you do this you make it impossible to give the Gospel to others in the way in which it should be given.

I like this word that they all bandy around, "prejudice." You're prejudiced. You're a bigot. And you're prejudiced. They throw words around and they don't even know what they mean. Do you know what the word "prejudiced" means? Pre-judge. I don't prejudge anybody. If they walk down the street and they waddle, and they make a noise like a duck, and they go near water, I have to come to the conclusion that's a duck. That's not prejudging anybody. They're manifesting what they are. So, that prejudice term is out. They use that the wrong way. We all have prejudices in life. Just think about it for awhile. So, we have to stop imposing our prejudices on the unbeliever.

The issue, for example, is I can't stand to watch a woman (oh, no, I better not do this) drink a beer and smoke a cigarette. But, I don't say, "Hey listen. In order for you to accept Christ as your Saviour, you have to drop that Coors and that cigarette." That's superimposing your prejudices on the unbeliever. Once you orient to the Grace of God and you begin to relax in your own life and you don't mind other people's businesses, you mind your own business. And you mind God's business in the sense of making the true issue to the unbeliever in the Gospel in witnessing.

So, when it comes to unbelievers and other believers, you always allow them to operate between themselves and the Lord without your interference. Every tub has to stand on its own bottom! No one can intercede before you and make decisions for you. You have to take in the Word and you have to make decisions on what the Word says to you, regardless of what I say that the Word says. You have to take it and you have to apply it and you're responsible for it. I have to do the same thing.

Under this concept of “nosiness,” it’s just a form of ego. A person who has that type of ego thinks that everyone should live and think and dress and do exactly as they do. If you’re normal, you’re egotistical. Now, you say “No, not me.” Yes you are. If you’re an idiot, then you have no ego. Now, are you egotistical or not? Sure you are. Ego is a part of your old sin nature. Ego is probably the personality part of the old sin nature. So, do you have an old sin nature? Yes! Are you an egotist? Yes. We all are.

The only people in the world who are not egotistical are believers controlled by God the Holy Spirit. A believer filled with the Spirit applies doctrine to the experience, and can result in living a very relaxed life because ego doesn’t interfere. So, we have a great principle here. We have inner happiness for people who have overcome ego problems.

“Inner happiness to the merciful,” in other words to those who think Grace and live by Grace and are relaxed. And you must think Grace to live by Grace. This is why it is so important to be filled with the Spirit. If you are not filled with the Spirit, then in your mind you will have such functions as hatred, antagonism, jealousy, envy, self-pity, and implacability instead of love, joy, peace, long-suffering, Grace, faith, and so on. With jealousy, envy, antagonism, and hatred you can’t be relaxed. Obviously, in that condition you do not have inner happiness. So, this verse says “Inner happiness to those who think and live by Grace, for they shall receive mercy.”

Some people will never get to this point because some Christians are very petty. “You hate me so I hate you.” That type of thing. So, they’re still children, humanly speaking.

We have another principle: When someone is antagonistic to you, you don’t have to be antagonistic to them. If you retaliate, then you’re miserable, and you inflict it upon yourself. If you want to be miserable for the rest of your life, all you have to do in your mind is be non-gracious, fail to be merciful, treat everyone the way that they treat you, and you will be torturing yourself for the rest

of your life. You’ll never grow up physically or spiritually.

So, “They shall obtain mercy.” In other words, the principle: It takes capital to make money. It takes money to make money. It takes Grace to make Grace.

Another principle: When you have in your mentality Grace because of the Word of God in your mind, then you’ll be gracious to others, and gracious in your relationship to God. And God will be free to pour out maximum blessings on you.

Another principle about Grace: Grace doesn’t add. Grace multiplies! In other words, the dividends of Grace are fantastic.

Now, here is Jesus Christ preparing the disciples to go out and deal with legalistic Jews involved in Judaism. If they are legalistic it won’t work! They have to be relaxed in order to have impact on these religious, Judaistic Jews that they’re going to witness to.

Point 3). You thought I was all through. That was only the second point. Now, when a believer operates under Grace he fulfills the Christian way of life, which is forgive as Christ forgives, love the brethren, have no illusions about human ability, you rely entirely upon Divine operating assets. Grace is the one thing that the human race cannot stand up against. It mows them down. It’s the principle of throwing heaping coals of fire on their head. The human race is geared in its thinking to stand up to anything, but the human race can’t stand up to the Grace of God.

Point 4). The believer must know the Word in order to orient to Grace and you can’t orient to Grace apart from the Word of God. Ignorance of the Word of God means the impossibility of orienting to the Grace of God.

So, one: you have to grow in Grace by the knowledge of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Two: you have to think Grace. And three: you have to practice Grace in your life.

Verse 8. The beatitude of fellowship. “Blessed are the pure in heart.” What’s a “pure in heart?” The previous verse had to do with

the mental attitude, but that's the end of the line. So, where do you begin? Well, "the pure in heart," here. The word "heart" is KARDIA, which means mind. "Pure in mind." That's a believer in fellowship. See, verse 7, then, would have to be a mature believer with maximum doctrine, producing to the maximum. A Grace oriented believer.

In verse 8 it describes, as it were, the babies. This is where you start. Once you accept Jesus Christ as Saviour, your big objective is to stay in fellowship. "Pure in heart" is not any kind of emotional pattern. "Heart" is mind.

I want you to notice where purity begins. It begins in the mind. So, the principle is purity is a mental attitude, not a hypocritical type of self-righteousness. You know, not just using words like "thee" and "thou" and "goest" and "whithersoever" and "sister" and "brother" and not calling anybody by their regular names. Purity means to be in fellowship.

Pure is the word KATHAROSIS, which is the same word for cleansing. It means "being cleansed." "Blessed are those who are cleansed in the mind, or who are pure in the mind, for they shall see God."

First of all, you don't see God in this life. In other words, if you're a "pure thinker" you still don't see God. It's a future tense again. And again it means a logical result. This is not to see God even in the future, as it were. This is right here on this Earth. It means to see God now. How do you see God now? Well, He's in the third Heaven. How do you see Him now? Through the Word.

So, this is interesting. This is a person in fellowship, controlled by the Holy Spirit. "Pure in mind." God the Holy Spirit controls your life and He teaches and He guides into all Truth. So, this is inner happiness to the pure in mind, which means a system of perception, which is the filling of the Holy Spirit. The filling of the Holy Spirit moves you along to maturity by opening up your mind to the Word of God. So, this means that you see, you perceive, you understand. In 1 Corinthians 2:16 it says that the Bible is the mind of Christ.

Now, verse 9. Inner happiness in witnessing. We've had inner happiness in salvation. We've had inner happiness in suffering, where God turns cursing into blessing. We've had inner happiness in the fact that we have a future. We've had inner happiness to those who are positive to the Word of God. We had Grace oriented believers for happiness. We've had fellowship for happiness. And now we have the principle of witnessing. "Blessed are the peacemakers." All right. Now, everyone turn in your arms, you know, lay down. No more war. "Blessed are the peacemakers." This is not the United Nations, by the way.

Get the background again. See how ridiculous all of this other stuff is. Where is He? He's sitting in the mountains. He's just left the multitudes. He's talking to His disciples. In a minute the multitudes are going to come up. The disciples are going to have to witness to them. So, He's saying to them "Blessed are the peacemakers." What are they going to do? Start a United Nations building? They don't have any arms. It has nothing to do with anything physical.

We're so eat up and we just get into socialism wherever we see it. There's no socialism in the Bible! The Bible is antagonistic to socialism *and* Communism. "Blessed are the peacemakers." "Inner happiness to the peacemakers." The peacemaker is the believer who clearly declares the Gospel! Peace is the doctrine of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5. We are ambassadors of reconciliation. Here is the unbeliever. He has no relationship with God. There's a barrier between him and God. We give them the Gospel, they accept Christ as their Saviour, and now they have peace with God. It's not peace with the Russians. It's not peace with the Chinese.

The principle is with God. Reconcile that person back to God, so making peace. So, peace is the doctrine of reconciliation. A peacemaker is a believer who can say "Be ye reconciled to God." 2 Corinthians 5:17-20. We are peacemakers. And that is in witnessing.

Every believer is an ambassador for the Lord Jesus Christ. The believer then is a

peacemaker. You have the Gospel deposited with you and you have that information to give to the unbeliever.

So, a peacemaker is a believer witnessing for the Lord Jesus Christ. It's found in 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 and Ephesians 2:13-18. The word "peace" is EIRENE, from which we get the word Irene, and POIEO, which means to make peace.

Ephesians 2:13-18, "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace. Who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us: Having abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances: for to make in Himself of twain one new man, so making peace: And that He might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father."

Well, this is the beatitude of blessing. I'd now like to give you a few principles on witnessing in the time that we have left. These may help you.

First of all, the first prerequisite that you need for witnessing is this: Knowledge of salvation is absolutely necessary in order to evangelize the unbeliever.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away: behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation: To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them: and hath committed unto us the Word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

The doctrine of reconciliation and the fact that all sins were put on Jesus Christ and judged and that they will never be judged again. And the fact that the issue in salvation is not sin! And that sin is an issue in the

Christian way of life. In salvation the issue is human good versus Divine Good.

In other words, you have to know those concepts. Like sin is not the issue when it comes to the unbeliever. Sin is the issue with the believer. And the fact that all the sins were judged in the Lord Jesus Christ and they'll never be judged again. And the issue in salvation is human good versus Divine Good.

The second principle in witnessing is the fact that witnessing for the Lord Jesus Christ is the responsibility of every believer. That's Acts 1:8. "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem. and in all Judaea. and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the Earth." It's also found in 2 Timothy 4:5. "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

Don't be sold a bill of goods of buying one system for witnessing. In other words, someone will come along and say "This is the way to witness, A B C." There are many, many ways to witness. Be flexible! When you know the Word of God you will be flexible. Do not under any circumstance limit yourself to one system of witnessing. One system of witnessing may be good for one person, but everybody is different. And there are many, many ways to present the Gospel.

Principle 3). Effectiveness and clarity of witnessing depends upon the believer's understanding of the Last Judgment. In other words, Revelation 20:12-15 says that the unbeliever is judged according to his works, which is called in Hebrews 6:1 "dead works." Human good was not judged at the cross. But at the Last Judgment the unbeliever, who is the only one there, has his human good judged.

Revelation 20:12-15, "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God: and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, *according to their works*. And the sea gave up

the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and *they were judged every man according to their works*. And death and hell were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the Lake of Fire.”

Hebrews 6:1, “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from DEAD WORKS, and of faith toward God.”

The unbeliever and his human good are locked up in one package and tossed into the Lake of Fire. That’s the Last Judgment. At the Judgment Seat of Jesus Christ we have the evaluation of the believer, and his human good is wrapped up into a package and thrown into the fire. It’s called wood, hay and stubble. “But he himself is saved, yet as so by fire,” 1 Corinthians 3:15. You have to know the situation about the Last Judgment and works being judged.

The unbeliever rejects Jesus Christ. That’s Divine Good (I mean Jesus Christ is Divine Good). Then he stands on his own human good. And he sticks with his human good forever. All human good is relegated to burning.

Principle 4). Witnessing is impossible apart from the ministry of God the Holy Spirit. John 16:8-11, “And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on Me; Of righteousness, because I go to My Father, and ye see Me no more; Of judgement, because the prince of this world is judged.”

The Holy Spirit convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment. Sin is unbelief in Christ. Righteousness is the imputation of Divine righteousness. Judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. All who reject Jesus Christ share in Satan’s judgment because hell is prepared for Satan and his angels. Matthew 25:41, “Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.”

I want you to notice that the Holy Spirit convicts of unbelief in Christ and He convicts of relative righteousness plus Divine imputed righteousness and of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. Hell is a place for Satan and his angels. If a human being rejects Christ then they go to some place that is designed for Satan.

Principle 5). The pertinent content of the Scriptures is the believer’s weapon in evangelism, or witnessing. **All Scripture is not for the unbeliever**. Remember, “The natural man receives not the things of the Spirit.” Only pertinent Scripture is for the unbeliever. In other words, the Bible has the power, but use the right part of the Bible. **The only thing that is pertinent to the unbeliever is the Gospel!**

The tendency is to try to make an issue out of bad habits or obnoxious activities or personalities. Don’t make an issue out of anything but the Gospel. The Gospel is found clearly in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. Don’t make an issue out of the heathen. Do not try to dissuade him with false beliefs that they hold. But be positive in your approach. Lay it on the line with regards to the Gospel, but step back, as it were, and let God the Holy Spirit do the work.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4, “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the Gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures: And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”

The Holy Spirit uses the Scriptures. He’s the Sovereign Executive of personal work and the Bible is the weapon. Don’t sit back and try to argue whether or not the Word of God IS the Word of God.

It’s just like if you have a gun, if you can realize that. You don’t say well, someone says to you “That gun isn’t a gun. Is it?” And you say “Yeah, I think it’s a gun.” YOU don’t

argue about it. You just shoot it. Then you know it is a gun. The Word of God is the Word of God! You don't argue whether it's the Word of God or not. "Well, I think it is the Word of God," but you "don't think it is the Word of God." Don't argue about it. Just shoot them. "The Word of God is alive and powerful." Give them the Gospel. That's the whole point. Don't argue whether it is or not. The issue is Christ.

Principle 6). The dynamics of witnessing include the mental attitude of the believer. There's a certain mental attitude that you should have when you are witnessing. It has nothing to do with being embarrassed, ashamed, or frightened. When you witness for Christ you should remember Romans 1:14-16. Paul says "I am debtor." In other words, you owe the Gospel to the human race as long as you live.

Verse 15 says "I am ready." If you recognize your debt to the human race, then with doctrine in your mind, you are always ready to give the Gospel. Then verse 16 says "I am not ashamed." A lot of believers are not ready because they are ashamed. That means that you haven't taken in enough of the Word.

Principle 7) says that there are two areas of witnessing for Christ in principle. One is the testimony of the lips. You know, you give the Gospel by what you say. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. The other is the testimony of the life. 2 Corinthians 3:3, "Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart." We are epistles to the whole world.

So, some people watch the way you act in life and other people listen to your mouth. But, make your lips and your legs match up. That's the whole point. Be consistent.

Principle 8) says that there is a reward for witnessing. 1 Corinthians 3:11-15, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made

manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is."

Gold, silver, and precious stones include witnessing. You will be rewarded for witnessing. Rewards are memorials to the glory and Grace of God because it is everything that you have done in the filling of the Holy Spirit.

So, this is the beatitude on witnessing. Next time we'll take up in verses 10-12 our last one, the beatitude of persecution. In other words, what about the fact that people persecute you? They say, for example, "You must be some sort of kook coming to Bible class. What kind of a cult is that?"

You know, I want to tell you something about us here that you may not realize. Most people, when you talk about church, they talk about going on Sunday mornings for 15 minutes. That's normal for the 21st century. You go on Sunday morning for 15 minutes and you get a poem and a book review. You go home and you feel great. Plus you give them 10% of your gross, which is gross. Most people think about church that way.

But, you know, we are one of the unique churches in the fact that our doors are open quite a bit of the time. I think that a church that spends money for a building and property and just opens for 15 minutes a week, that's a waste of money. But we're really using our church because we're here four or five times a week, and we're thinking about more. When you say to someone that you go to Bible class a couple of nights a week, that's foreign to their thinking because you are perceived to immediately be in a cult. That's some of the persecution. Next time we'll see that there can be happiness in persecution.

Remember that Jesus Christ said it when He was here, too. He said that when He was here, they didn't like Him at all. He said that they hated Him when He was here. And He said, "If they don't hate you, then you're really not any of Mine." He says "We're in the world, but we're not of the world." He says "In the world you're going to have trouble." It was nice

of Him to warn us. But He never told us how much. He says then *“I have overcome the world!”*

Now, we have situation that happen to us in life in the overt side. Jobs, people that we meet, circumstances. They can't affect the real you unless you let them.

Don't get apathetic about the Word, which is the real you. He says, “Don't worry about the person who can kill the body.” That's nothing. But, the person who can kill the

soul. That's something! And that's you killing your soul when you're negative to the Word, or you're getting into satanic thinking.

So, stay with the Word. Pray for positive volition amongst all of us and uphold one another before the Lord. Uphold our church.

This pamphlet was taken from a class taught by Buddy Dano on September 10, 1985 as a part of his series on the book of Matthew.

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