

THE BEATITUDES

THE EIGHT BLESSINGS FROM GOD TO INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The words “Blessing” or “Bless you” or “God Bless you” is generally intended to bestow the best of what God has to the other person. Just what that blessing is often depends on what the recipient thinks a blessing is. The question is then, what should one expect to receive if someone wishes God’s blessings on them?

The most famous blessing is found in Matthew’s account of the Gospel message Chapter 5. A study of the original Greek words and their intended meanings may reveal very pleasant surprises to us. Let us discover what these are.

Please open your Bible and read, and re-read Matthew 5, and the chapters preceding and following. Meditate on the Word, then do it in your life!

But first, we must set these blessings in the right context. The *Holy Spirit has set this narrative in the midst of the dramatic launch of Jesus Christ’s brief 3 year ministry 2 Timothy 3:16 (Proof – read The Bride & The Harlot appendices [http:// kiwi7kiwi.tripod.com](http://kiwi7kiwi.tripod.com) (URL) research by Ivan Panin “Bible Numerics”) The Jews had flocked to John the Baptist’s call “ repent for the kingdom of God is at hand” – out of the city into the wilderness. It goes without saying that families or the households of the men were directly affected by a response to this call since Jewish men called the tune. Jesus Christ began his ministry with the same call and preaching with even more spectacular results. His messages were came with healing and deliverance from demonic bondages, and direct confrontation with the hypocritical religious hierarchy. The time was ripe for change.

The populace was weighed under by: a host of religious rules (all 613 of them according to rabbinic tradition – the first ten of which are the Ten Commandments read Willmington’s Guide to the Bible 4th Printing 1983 pp. 940- 948) which were, and still are, impossible to keep; a brutal Roman dictatorship; and a religious governing body which helped the Romans to subjugate its populace. The known world was poised to receive, with great difficulty, a man who fulfilled all that the Jewish nation stood for, and who could set men free from the bondages of sin. The call to repentance heralded the coming heavenly kingdom. The eight Beatitudes spelt out in capital and bold letters, the fruit one could expect of this kingdom once it was established in the lives of the adherents. The Beatitudes gave, and still give, flesh to the new values and norms of this heavenly Kingdom. Here are the marks of the presence of the kingdom of God within the temple of the Holy Spirit – a believer’s body 1 Corinhtians 3: 16 –17, 6: 19-20

SUMMARY

Picture a hamburger – it has a bun which has been split into two with a filling in-between. The topside of the “bun” here is the **Pre -Context** and the bottomside is the **Post-Context**, whilst the “filling” of meat is the analysis of the actual eight blessings. An in-depth look at the beatitudes must also include consideration of the bun!

This is the Top Side of the Burger

PRE- CONTEXT in Matthew's account of the Gospel

Context

Preaching of John 3: 1-12 **Repent** for the kingdom of heaven is at hand

Jesus is baptised by John 3: 13-17 Three baptisms in **Water, Holy Spirit, Fire** –

Water as in dying to oneself – as Christ died for the world - Galatians 2:20 & John 12:24 ,

Holy Spirit as Christ became controlled by the Holy Spirit so must a believer – Romans 8:1, 6

Fire – as Christ was persecuted so must a true believer 1 Peter 1:7, 2:20-21

Jesus is tempted by the Devil 4: 1-11 stones to bread, cast thyself down, worship me,

The two Royal Commandments of worship (Matthew 22: 37-40) – Agape God and Agape oneself as to neighbours Worship is offering ourselves as living sacrifices with a broken spirit and broken & a contrite heart

Romans 12:1-4, Psalm 51:17

Jesus teaches the people 4:12 – 17 **Repent** for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Repentance, a gift from God, is the result of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in a believer – it is on-going.

Jesus calls 4 fishermen 4:18-22 **Follow me immediately**–Simon Peter & Andrew, James &

John Zebedee follow Him . (The immediate response by hearers is underlined in Marks account of the Gospel message). Obedience requires instant and constant obedience to God's words. Note, we become ‘fishermen’ as a result of following Jesus The Christ who does the work through us as His vessels – it is not us, but Christ through us !

Jesus ministers to a Great multitude 4:23-25 **preaching, healing, and deliverance** (PhD ministry of Christ – but only in the King James and New King James version)

The continuing presence of a resurrected Jesus Christ can be seen, experienced by all as in the four different accounts of the Gospel message and in Acts, and New Testament. The Gospel message is preached, people are saved, healed of all illnesses – physical and mental – and demons cannot stand the presence of Jesus the Christ, so flee.

The top part of the bun or immediate context is a life centred on Jesus Christ, namely repentance,

three baptisms (in water – as in dying to self, in the Holy Spirit – as in being led, controlled, and empowered, and in fire for purifying, and, the presence of Jesus Christ with accompanying preaching and signs of healing and deliverance from demonic presence resident in the hearers.

Let us read on and have a look at the blessings.

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT & THE EIGHT BLESSINGS MATTHEW 5: 1-12

TO BE BLESSED or, Blessed (Greek: *Μακάριο*, Makario) means “ to be **characterised by the quality of God**, to be **indwelt by God** – to have the kingdom of god within Luke 17:21, to be **fully satisfied**, not a static but progressive condition, **basic condition of having Christ indwelling in man’s heart** which brings a fundamental satisfaction to the life of the believer”.

So, the next time A Christian blesses you, or asks God to Bless you, they are effectively affirming that Jesus Christ continues to reign in your life. What this means to us in actual life may be seen in the eight ways the blessings work in us.

There are eight categories of those who are blessed, all of whom have strong reason to rejoice and to be glad:

(Note: The Greek words do not have proper markings as the “symbols” lettering does not include these).

- Vs.3 (1) The poor in spirit
- Vs 4 (2) The mourning ones
- Vs 5 (3) The meek
- Vs 6 (4) The hungering and thirsting after righteousness
- Vs 7 (5) The merciful
- Vs.8 (6) The pure/clean in heart
- Vs 9 (7) The peacemaker
- Vs 10 (8) Those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake

***v.3 “ Blessed are the poor in spirit For theirs is the kingdom of heaven”**

(1) The poor in spirit (Gk: *Πτωχοι τω Πνευματι* *ptochos en pneumati*)

Literally - poor in spirit

Meaning: “helpless person – realisation of one’s helplessness”

Notes: **In the Present tense** – in the Greek this present tense begins in a point in time and continues on into the future now! Please note that the Present tense in the English language refers only to the present moment. However, in the Koine Greek language, the language of the New Testament, it is the Present continuous tense (i.e. the present continues into the future – it is on-going). Knowing one’s spiritual poverty, the need to be and remain repentant, is the first continuing step to heaven. There is no place in heaven for the proud in spirit.

Importance:

This characteristic is so important to the life of a Christian, that we must stress this in big, bold letters! The continued self realisation of one’s helplessness to save oneself, and to deal with sin may likened to the need to eat and keep ourselves clean everyday. There is a realization of the need to follow after Jesus Christ in a desperate and total surrender of self to the saving grace of Jesus Christ Romans 7 and to the Holy Spirit’s threefold work to convict the world (or the individual) of sin, righteousness and judgement John 16: 5 – 16

This is in sharp contrast to the Religious practices of the day – where pompous, attention seeking religious leaders dominated the whole life of the population. Hollywood style promotion and attention lovers existed way back then. No

wonder Jesus said that “the poor in spirit” would inherit the kingdom of heaven. It was a direct body blow at the religious leaders and the religious cultus they represented. So Jesus recounted the true story of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector Luke 18: 9 – 14. The former stood in the temple confident that his self-righteous, arrogant life and prayers would be heard and accepted. In sharp contrast, – the tax collector could not even bring himself to be in the temple precincts let alone ask God for anything – instead he beat his breast and cried out for mercy! You don’t have to be a rocket scientist to know who God accepted. In fact, Jesus devoted some considerable time attacking the religious leaders in parables and direct talking – those who are mindful of the “things of men” are equated with “abominations” Luke 16: 15 **and** serving Satan Matthew 16: 23.

v.4 “Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted”

(2) The mourning ones (Gk: *οι Πενθουντες* *hoi penthountes*)

Literally – the mourning (ones).

Meaning: “sorrow for one’s sins” -

Notes:

Theologians traditionally interpret this to mean mourning as in death, or crying over the death of a loved one. Certainly, death is a leveler of both rich and poor, and an end to which we can all look forward to (although most of would rather not think about it!). This is a strange way of thinking especially when death is but a door to heaven for Christians. Jesus Christ, who rose from the dead, has gone on ahead to prepare a place for true followers, or, those who are blessed, and being blessed by God John 14: 1 - 6.

However, the actual intended meaning of the need to be always mindful and sorry for one’s sins is bit of a revelation! But it is so true. A humble heart is the prelude to forgiveness. To whom much is forgiven that one loves more Luke 7 : 47. So the woman caught in the act of adultery (making her an instant target for the stone-throwers which is how they punished the women – the men got away scot-free) was forgiven by Jesus Christ –her love for Jesus must have been overwhelming to say the least. John 8: 1-12. The woman who could not be healed from internal bleeding was healed instantly by the desperate touch of the hem of Jesus’ garment – her thankfulness would have come from the bottom of her heart as an answer to many many years of prayer and seeking. Matthew 9 : 20 –22. And Zacchaeus, the conniving tax collector who on being received by Jesus was so thankful he made amends, repaying those he had cheated in detail and with interest Luke 19: 1 – 10 . How he must have suffered from the inner turmoil of a guilty conscience! Thankful hearts. Deeply loving responses – which last forever! And the blessing was enjoyed by his family as well – *Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house...’*

v.5 “Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth”

(3) The meek

Greek: *οι πραεις* *hoi phaeis*),

Literally: the meek.

Meaning: “to become angry at sin”

Notes:

Conventional wisdom tells us that the meek are mild and become doormats for the aggressive, self-seekers, and wicked. Some would say, they

are cowards. Jesus Christ's righteous indignation and anger at the hypocrisy and tyranny of the religious hierarchy and all the rules and regulations which stifled living for the ordinary people, is seen as an embarrassing aberration, totally inconsistent with a person who is full of love. For the proper nouns Pharisees and Sadducees, read Pharaoh of Egypt. But Jesus was only angry at the existence of man-made barriers which prevented those enslaved from reaching God and kept them under the clutches of sin and power of Satan.

We have to be just as angry at sin and its effects in our own lives. We have to be so angry that we are brought onto our knees at our own inability to conquer sin within our very being. We must be desperate for help – but who can help us? The answer is Jesus Christ. A resurrected and glorified Jesus Christ.

v.6 *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled".*

(4) The hungering and thirsting after righteousness

Greek: πεινῶντες καὶ διψῶντες τὴν δικαιοσύνην

Literally: the hungering and thirsting (ones) (after) righteousness

Translation: those who hunger and thirst for righteousness

Meaning: *when one exercises continuing **active** "combativeness against sin, he keeps on hungering for a new infilling of God's righteousness"*

Notes:

Ask any theologian, or your pastor, or your bible teacher to define righteousness and you get an explanation which not only goes over your head, but you are asked the question – Do you understand? Not to be thought of as dumb, our response is : Yes, I get it! The dictionary defines the word thus: " virtuous, upright, just, honest" Nothing wrong with this – only the word is an unattainable goal which belongs to the realms of theory not reality. A very useful definition is the picture painted by the Chinese words for righteousness - "Goong Yee". The two words in the Chinese language mean thus: "Goong" or eight out of the whole world, have "Yee" or the lamb over me. In other words very few people in the world can have the lamb over them – protecting, leading, covering, as LORD over them. Picture also a cloud over the children of Israel leading them in the wilderness 1 Corinthians 10. The exiles moved when the cloud moved and rested when the cloud stopped. It sheltered them from the harmful rays of the desert sun, and became a pillar of fire in the freezing cold of the night warming the sheltered ones and protecting them from wild animals. God was physically ever present in the Cloud, day and night. Furthermore, the children were fed by manna which they collected every morning except on the day before the Sabbath where they collected a double portion – this lasted for 40 years. And, amazingly, the children of Israel were still disobedient to God, YHWH.

Well, what does this mean for me? Replace the cloud with the person of Jesus Christ, the Lord of Lords and King of Kings of my life! Am I led by Him or do I continually or sometimes run ahead of him, or, do I lag behind Him? Romans 8: 1 If I am not under Him then I am in the wrong place! If I have idols such as film stars, mentors, teachers I adore, our peer group, gang, and the such-like, then Jesus is not Lord of my life. No man can serve two masters! Repentance is the way out of the influence of idols.

Most of us will hunger and thirst after many things in this world – fame, fortune, material possessions, a good nest-egg for retirement. But apart from the provision of our basics needs like food, shelter, clothing, warmth, all else is a luxury. A man or woman is indeed blessed if they seek for the things which truly make for happiness – love, acceptance, eternal life. Money can never satisfy the soul or spirit. So where is your heart?

v.7 *"Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy "*

(5) The merciful

Greek: *οι ελεημονες*, *oi elemones*)

Literally: the merciful

Meaning: *"total empathy with a sinner to relieve the tragic results of sin"*

Notes:

Who are the merciful? Those who are disposed to mercy, compassion, kindness as distinct from those who are merciless, or cruel. A person who cries out for mercy may be reprieved by the merciful. But here we are confronted with the tragic results of sin - the ultimate result is death Romans 6:23. The intervening results are a life of darkness – adultery, lust, thefts, gluttony, greed, envy, selfishness, gambling, and the such like. Each of us is confronted with the reality of life – left to ourselves we sin. No parent has to teach a child how to sin. Parents have to teach their children to be good, to know right from wrong. Morals and ethics are part and parcel of the socialization process. But how do I overcome the ultimate effect of sin – death? I am confronted with the reality that there is nothing I can do to save myself, to wipe out the deep stains of sin and to overcome death. The more I try to lead a moral and ethical life the more acutely aware I am that I cannot do it! Ever been here and done that? Well, the writer of Romans, Paul has and describes exactly this condition of helplessness under the anointing of the Holy Spirit Romans 7. The answer is that Jesus Christ is the only one who can save me. He is the only one who was sinless. He lived, died, rose from the dead (despite all precedents) and proved it to His own disciples and other Jews. And He has been doing just this to many others down through the ages, including this writer!

The Western world dates the calendar from his birth, and honours this on Christmas Day. His death and resurrection are remembered on Good Friday and Easter holidays. Never mind that these are pagan holidays adopted by the Church system. The religious holidays are irrelevant as, the fact remains, Jesus Christ is living. We serve a living Saviour, who resides within us. God shows His mercy to us by offering salvation from death through His son Jesus Christ. The Way to eternal life is through Jesus Christ – after all, He has overcome death and once resurrected, is still living today!

v.8 *"Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God "*

(6) The clean in heart

Greek: *οι καθαροι* *hoi katharoi*

Literally: the clean (or pure)

Meaning: *"a continuous cleansing as a result of the prior conditions of blessedness of God above"*

Notes:

King David, a man of God's own heart, had a minor fault – lust. He took Bathsheba, then sent her husband to his death to the front-line of a battle. King

David's sin was exposed by the prophet Samuel. 2 Samuel 12: 1- 15. The remorseful David then penned the beautiful Psalm 51, crying out to God for mercy with a broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart. This Psalm is beautiful simply because it goes to the heart of the human condition. It describes David's broken heart and desire for forgiveness for his adultery and murder. We can all identify with this condition, for we all need forgiveness for our sins. Somehow, we need to have clean hearts. But how? The answer lies in the blood of Jesus Christ shed almost 2000 years ago but still very effective today. We can shower all we like, every day to freshen ourselves up physically. But what can take away the guilty conscience? What can lighten a darkened heart, and a mind which conjures up all manner of evil? Nothing but the blood of Jesus Christ. Thus, if Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God covers us then his blood continually is effective to wash us clean of unrighteousness provided we confess our sins and ask Jesus Christ to forgive us. 1 John 1:7-9

Brokenness of heart and spirit is the key Psalm 51: 17 . We all build barriers to protect ourselves. These are of our own making. Often, they prove to be futile and create more problems than they prevent. These barriers are our own attempts to prevent the breaking of our hearts and spirits.

Jesus presents us with an illustration of a grain of wheat – unless it is planted in soil and cracks, it cannot grow roots and bear fruit John 12 : 24. He is talking about us. Our feeble attempts to preserve self may be seen in the defensive measures we adopt - Self-control, meditation, religious rituals performed regularly, dependence on self actualization tapes and doctrines, self-belief, positive confession, martial arts, yoga - the list is endless. It is only when we realize that we are our own worst enemies and are prepared to surrender our own ways and grasp hold of Jesus Christ that we strike out on the road to Calvary – a Cross for ourselves – a Way to a broken heart and broken spirit. Only then can Jesus Christ fill us with all that He is – Agape (God's totally unselfish love), joy, peace, forgiveness. Open-up your heart and spirit and let Jesus Christ flood your being with His presence, today.

A CLEAN HEART BELONGS TO ONE WHO AGAPES (continually has God's totally unselfish love) THE LORD GOD WITH ALL THEIR *HEART, SOUL, STRENGTH, AND MIND* . Matthew 22: 37 and Luke 10: 27. IT HAS NO HIDDEN AGENDAS.

v.9 *"Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called the sons of God".*

(7) The Peacemaker

Greek: *οι ειρηνοποιοι* hoi eirenopoio)

Literally: the peacemakers

Meaning: *"to stop feuding between nations and men, & also sharing the peace of God"*

Notes:

Jesus Christ is the one who makes peace between us and God. Ephesians 2 : 14
Jesus Christ is The One who makes peace in our hearts. It is He who calms the thumping heart because of inner turmoil and conflicts. The battle is within and without.

We show that we are at war with God by our disobedience to his will, and to his word. The law defines what is right and wrong. The Holy Bible, God's words define what is sin and what is not. The problem is to agree with God. Our

rebellion against His will is forever a universal condition of mankind. The history of the Jews is a case in point. Despite their disobedience God continually revealed His loving kindness towards them by saving a remnant. God looked down from heaven and saw a world filled with violence. Witness only eight who were saved from the Great Flood – Noah, his three sons, and their wives in the Ark. A few returned from the Great Babylonian Captivity. Many are called but few chosen. The road to destruction is wide: the road to eternal life is narrow. It is also a personal problem. How do I handle my own rebellion against God's will. How obedient am I to His word? The answer is a matter of life and death. Do I treat the answer in the same light? The Cross of Jesus Christ put a stop once and for all to the feud. But do I know the Cross, the old rugged Cross?

In life, to be a go-between is not easy in any argument. In war, it is well nigh impossible. Jesus Christ is our go-between in the spiritual warfare raging over our lives.

But, you will say, this is about people who act as peacemakers! Yes, they are the ones who share the good news that peace can be a reality in our hearts, as well as the ones who dedicate their lives to bring reconciliation among people, groups, communities, and nations.

In history, Jesus Christ is the only one who can stop all fighting. This will happen at the Apocalypse, at His Second Coming when He will come to "cut time short" to save mankind from destroying himself! That time is soon. Witness the events in the Middle East centered around Jerusalem and the Valley of Meddigo – Armageddon. The countdown to the end began with the establishment of the nation of Israel on 14 May 1948 – not only is it literally "one minute to midnight for our world, but the second hand has started ticking with the fulfillment of many end-time prophecies.

***v.10** *"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven ". Vs.11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for my sake. "*

(8) Those who are persecuted because of righteousness

Greek *οι δεδιωγμενοι ενεκεν δικαιοσυνης*, *hoi dediogmenoi eneken dikaiosunes*

Literally: the (ones) having been persecuted for the sake of righteousness

Meaning: Persecution "causes a person to reach the highest rung of the condition of blessedness"

Notes:

In present tense, like vs 3 *The poor in spirit*. Notice the double blessing here. Herein lies a mystery of life. How is it possible that persecution can be a blessing to anyone? Usually the victims are maimed for life, providing they survive the torture! Notice the verse says "*persecuted because of righteousness*". What does this mean? Remember the Chinese word for righteousness - 'Goong Yee' Eight in the whole world have the Lamb over the word Me? Translated, this means that you are blessed if you are persecuted because you are simply following Jesus Christ.

Going against the tide of your friends – standing up for the name of Jesus Christ and all that He stands for – definitely will not win you the popularity stakes in life. You will be an embarrassment to your friends. They can blaspheme the name of

Jesus Christ and so 'blame' him for many things, The foul-mouthed mention His name, often. But talk about Him and you will be shunned! Funny isn't it? But such is life. No one really wants to hear the truth – so why cast pearls before swine? Save your breath. Rely on the promptings of the Holy Spirit who will tell you when and when not to speak (don't rely on your training, or feelings)! God knows who is going to be saved. Unless God convicts a person of sin, righteousness and judgement John 16: 8 - 15 then you will be pushing it all uphill ! (The Holy Spirit's job specifications are clearly enunciated, so why not let Him perform His job without interference from us?) Pre-destination is God's preserve. Believe it. Bible bashing is uncalled for. Better be led by the Holy Spirit and share, at the right time, with one receptive person than to beat many people over the head with the truth (they don't give two hoots anyway - that is they don't care!).

Persecution for righteousness' sake is also the third baptism, in fire Matthew 3 : 11. The Fire produces Holiness, cleansing and purifying like gold which is refined under intense fire 1 Peter 1:7 . To follow Jesus Christ is to experience this purifying. A believer cannot expect anything different from His Saviour who suffered tremendously under the Jewish religious fanatics 1 Peter 2:21. Saul of Tarsus, who became Paul after his conversion, so persecuted the first Jewish followers of the Way. Paul in turn was run out of Ephesus. The Roman Christians were burned on Crosses and used in place of animals in the arenas and slaughtered by Gladiators. The blood of martyrs has flowed like the blood of the crucified Jesus Christ down through human history simply because men and women would not bend the knee to Satan operating through the dictates of men. Please do not confuse "persecution" with "persecution for righteousness' sake" . The latter includes the reason for the persecution – Jesus Christ.

v.12 *Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you .*

Rejoice

Greek: *Χαιρετε. kai αγαλλιασθε*
 Chairete kai agalliasathe
 Rejoice and be glad

Literally: The verse, in full, reads in transliteration:

" Rejoice and be glad, because the reward of you (is) much more in the heavens; for thus they persecuted the prophets before you ."

Notes:

This is both a commandment and an individual response. Surely you'd have to be " out-of-your-cotton-pickin'-mind " to rejoice in the face of persecution? How can anyone possibly rejoice and sing praises to their God in times of intense persecution? It has and does happen to those who know their Saviour – those who believe with their minds, hearts, soul and strength, that with Jesus Christ they are in the winning team. Death is but a release of a person's Spirit into an inheritance of Eternal life. Heaven bound people have nothing to fear and everything to rejoice in. To wear a Crown of Life is the ultimate. This can only happen after death of the body and release of our spirit which returns to be with Jesus Christ Luke 16: 19 - 31. So, if you are scared of dying, then perhaps you are not in the right queue to heaven – you are not saved.

It is very acceptable in the world to set goals and then quietly set in place the where-with-all to achieve these goals. The question is – what is the time-line for goal setting? If your ultimate goal is heaven, then nothing can deter a forgiven sinner from what is their right – Eternal Life. The world is but a stage for heaven. We must learn to sing the songs of martyrs, and sing them with gusto! Practice makes perfect.

If you have your eyes firmly fixed towards Heaven and its rewards, then all in this wicked world is, in comparison, worthless. A child will let go of the object they are clutching onto provided they identify something better to grab or hold. Let go of earthly things – reach your hand out for Heavenly things. Set your life in order. Order your goals with the ultimate objective as Heaven. Do it, now! Review your performance daily.

A forgiven sinner is a person who is indeed full of joy. A person who stays a forgiven sinner is forever joyful. Have your feet on earth, and your head in Heaven.

Note though that the Greek word is **heavens – plural. Heaven is to be found in another dimension. There are other dimensions of heaven, hence heavens. Presently, we do not have eyes to see into the fourth, fifth or sixth dimension and so on. Surely “ *Eye have not seen nor ear heard. Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him* ” 1 Corinthians 2: 9 op cit Isa 64:4 See also 2 Corinthians 12: 1-6 Paul’s vision at his conversion.

We are reassured that we share the agony and sufferings of Christ on the Cross, with all the prophets, and saints. We shall reign with Him in Glory!

*FOOTNOTE: * vs 3 & 10 “ promises in Present ContinuousTense. Blessedness begins now, not after death ”. Other verses. “Promises are in future. Therefore: not all conditions of blessedness are given now. They will be given in their totality, in the future, in Heaven”.*

*FOOTNOTE: ** Heavens and Dimensions. The Bible Code p.46 mentions that fact that computer calculations were calculated in two-dimensional models. Current computers are not powerful enough to utilize three-dimensional models (or even more) which undoubtedly exist, in the minds of the researchers. The Hebrew language when analysed by computer has revealed beyond any reasonable doubt the existence of a higher intelligence who inspired the Bible. Read: The Bible Code (1997) by Michael Drosnin pub. Weidenfeld & Nicolson London. This is a report on the mathematical findings of three Jewish mathematicians Doron Witztum, Eliyahu Rips and Yoav Rosenburg.*

Let us now look at the bottom-side of the bun.

POST CONTEXT

- Salt and Light** 4: 13-14 Salt adds flavour. Light always shines into darkness
- Teaching about the Law** 4:15-20 Jesus fulfills the Law – we are judged by God's words - His standards. Our righteousness must exceed that of the Sadducees and Pharisees, that is the righteousness of God - The Lamb over Me makes me righteous – God's provision is better than self - righteousness.
- Teaching about anger** 4: 21-26 Murder is equated with anger. Settle everything with men before going to God with your problems!
- Sin begins in the heart** 4: 27-30 Lust of the eyes is just as bad as committing adultery !
- Divorce** 5: 27 - 32 The only grounds is adultery. Any other reasons & you commit yourself and your former spouse to commit adultery.
- Oaths** 5: 33 – 37 Do not swear. Reply “yes” or “no”. Do not give oaths in Court, rather Affirm to tell truth! Don't make promises to do anything! See also James 5:12
- Retaliation** 5: 38 – 42 Not “eye-for-an-eye” but submit to evil. Give principle.
- Enemies** 5: 43 – 48 Love your enemies. Be perfect as our Father in heaven.
- Almsgiving** 6: 1 – 4 Give secretly, not with ceremony. Don't let your Left hand know what your right hand is doing!
- Prayer** 6: 5 – 15 Not openly or boastfully, but in secret . Pattern is The Lord's Prayer.
- Fasting** 6: 16 – 17 Not openly or boastfully, but in secret.
- Treasures in Heaven** 6: 19 – 21 Do not store treasures on earth – build-up treasures in Heaven.
Question: Where is your heart – on Earth or in Heaven?
- The Light of the body** 6: 22 – 23 The electrician's paradox. It's all in the eyes. Is your body full of Light or Darkness? Darkness is not mere absence of light !
Don't cast your pearls before swine
- Worry about life's necessities** 6: 25 – 34 Food, clothing, shelter, warmth. Don't work your butt-off for these things – seek God first and His righteousness and
these things will be added to you! v.33
- Judging others** 7: 1 –12 The Greek word is condemn. We must judge righteous judgement otherwise how can we tell right from wrong, and to teach our children?
- Entry Requirements to Heaven** 7: 13 Choose the right road. The wide gate is to hell. The narrow gate is to Heaven. Many will end-up in hell. Few will find Heaven.
- Trees and Fruit** 7: 15 – 23 Beware of Wolves in sheep clothing – false leaders who say they speak God's words (a prophet purports to speak God's words) . Check everyone out carefully. Ask them for chapter and verse. Our fruit gives us away! The Test is, Look for the fruit in a person's life!
- Wise and Foolish Builders** 7: 24 – 28 Is your house built on the rock of Jesus Christ? Are you a fool or a wise man ? A house is inhabited by a man and his family – a household. To be brought-up in a fool's household is to be nurtured in a culture which will set you onto a direct path to Hell.

The first and obvious thing is that the bottom part of the bun is thicker than the top. This is because there are many things we have to unlearn and must relearn. That which goes in first makes the deepest impression. Erasing the wrong is very difficult.

On entering a new country we need to familiarize ourselves with the Laws and customs of our new homeland. Similarly, we know this world through the countries we have lived in. But as citizens of Heaven Matthew 4: 17, Ephesians 2:19. we need to adopt all of the values and norms of the new land – not so easy a job especially when they are so different and the rules are much harder to uphold.

We are all programmed by our society through our family up-bringing. If the emphasis and programming has bugs in it then we need to search these out and get rid of them. Sometimes what has been taught is inappropriate for the new circumstances – for instance: rural mores need to be adapted in urban situations; our cherished cultural mores need to be adjusted in a new country – when in “Rome do as the Romans!” – well, at least in part. But we do not need is to toss the baby out with the bathwater. Sometimes all that is needed is an adjustment to the steering mechanism, to steer a course through very difficult waters of life! Other times, we must identify the Kingdom of Heaven values and norms, compare them with the cultural ones we have been taught, then toss-overboard those that do not agree with God’s words. Let God’s winnowing fan sort out the wheat from the chaff! When in heaven do as God says!

Repent and the kingdom of heaven is near to you! A humble, broken and contrite heart, and broken spirit is all God wants from us! Let us continually offer ourselves to him as living sacrifices, daily, every moment of our lives! Thus, Jesus Christ will transform us into His image and glory, day-by-day! 2 Corinthians 3:18

It is significant that the Holy Spirit ends this discussion with the comparison of the wise man and the foolish man – the wise man builds his house on the rock (Jesus Christ) whereas the foolish man builds his house on sand.

Whilst the Beatitudes are primarily addressed to individuals, its proper context is the household. Is there anything better than to see a house established on the Lord Jesus Christ, and the whole family well on its way to Heaven?

“ Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household” Acts 16:32.

This promise to the Phillippian gaoler and his family (plus all that were in his home) is equally applicable to us and our families.

May your family be blessed by God, and may you rest in His Blessings, until Jesus Christ comes again as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Spiros Zodhiates’ thoughts form the basis of this study. This writer has added the Greek text togetherwith the literal English equivalent whilst maintaining the sense of the original Greek words as a transliteration. Alternative meanings of the key Greek words are also given, as applicable. The final meaning of the actual words however remain true to Zodhiates’ words - these are noted in inverted commas .

Spiros Zodhiates, Th.D. Compiler and Editor “ The Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible, Published by: Baker Book House , 2nd printing July 1985 pp 1141-2

END

