

Beatitudes
What The Bible Teaches About Being Blessed

**JESUS' BEATITUDES AND THE INFLUENCE OF
CHRISTIANS**

Text: Matthew 5:13-16

Introduction:

1. The biblically blessed are those who depend upon God.
2. They inherit the promise made to Abraham by submission to God.
3. Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount by describing foundational attitudes that are necessary to follow Him.
4. These attitudes are essential to salvation.
5. They are also essential to having a godly influence in a wicked world.
5. Consider the relationship between the beatitudes of Jesus and the influence of Christians...

I. The Influence of Salt

- A. The importance of salt:
 1. Salt is essential to human life.
 2. Salt has preserving power.
 3. Salt has a seasoning effect.
- B. The Christian is necessary for propagating spiritual life.
 1. The Christian is to have the heart of a peacemaker (5:9)
 2. Evangelism (Mark 16:15-16; Romans 10:14-15)
 3. Explanation (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 8:30-31, 35)
 4. Example (Acts 9:36; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Peter 2:12; 3:1)
- C. The Christian is necessary for spiritual preservation (cf. Genesis 18:23ff; 19:29; 39:5; Proverbs 14:34; Acts 27:4).
- D. The Christian is necessary for spiritual flavor (Colossians 4:6).

II. The Influence of Light

- A. Darkness is the absence of light.
- B. The Christian reflects Jesus, the Light of the World (John 8:12; 9:5; 12:46; Philippians 1:20).
- C. The Christian holds forth the light of Truth (Matthew 10:27; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Philippians 2:15-16).
- D. The Christian shines forth the light of righteousness (2 Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 5:8-14).
- E. The church is a city of light set upon a hill (Revelation 1:20; 2:1).

III. The Influence Diminished

- A. Salt that has lost its ability to preserve or season is worthless.
- B. A light hidden under a basket is useless.
- C. Christians must strive to maintain their influence for good (2 Peter 2:20-22; Hebrews 6:4-6; etc.).

Conclusion: *The Beatitudes allow one to have a godly influence in the world.*