

Beatitudes
What The Bible Teaches About Being Blessed

BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SINS ARE COVERED

Text: Romans 4:7-8

Introduction:

1. The biblically blessed are those who depend upon God.
2. They inherit the promise made to Abraham by submission to God.
3. Throughout the New Testament, beatitudes describe the heart of one who is a faithful member of the Lord's kingdom – his church.
4. These blessed attitudes will enable one to make it to the eternal kingdom of God in Heaven.

I. The Context of the Beatitude

- A. This Beatitude is a quotation from the Old Testament, Psalm 33:1-2.
 1. This passage was studied in Lesson 5 of this series: *Blessed Is The Man Whose Sins Are Forgiven*.
 2. The Blessedness of Conversion – *turning from sin to God*
 3. The Blessedness of Communion – *living in fellowship with God*
 4. The Blessedness of Confession – *acknowledging sin and repenting*
- B. The book of Romans is centered on the theme: The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation (1:16-17).
 1. Because they have sinned, the Gentiles need the Gospel (Rom. 1).
 2. Because they have sinned, the Jews need the Gospel (Romans 2).
 3. Because all have sinned, all need the Gospel (Romans 3).
- C. Chapter 4 of Romans demonstrates how faith saves one from sin, not by works of merit but by grace from God.
- D. However, this does not exclude works of obedience – in fact, they are commanded and essential.
- E. The Gospel of Christ is necessary for the covering of one's sins.

II. The Statement of the Beatitude

- A. The blessed man's iniquities are forgiven.
 1. Iniquities are "violations of the law, illegal actions; being without or outside of law; contempt for and violation of the law."
 - a. "Work iniquity" (Matthew 7:23)
 - b. "Do iniquity" (Matthew 13:41)
 - c. "Full of iniquity" (Matthew 23:28)
 - d. "Abound[ing] iniquity" (Matthew 24:12)
 - e. "Servants of iniquity" (Romans 6:19)
 - f. "Unrighteousness" (2 Corinthians 6:14)
 - g. "Transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4)
 2. Forgiven means, "To send forth or away; to let go; to give up a debt, remit or forgive" (Titus 2:14; Hebrews 1:9; 8:12; 10:17).
- B. The blessed man's sins are covered.

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1. The word for 'sin' means, "To miss the mark (and so not share in the prize); to err; to miss or wander from the path of uprightness; to do or go wrong; thus, an offence or violation of the law."
 2. Cover means, "To conceal or cover over; thus, to forgive."
 - C. The blessed man's offences are not imputed to him.
 1. The word for 'sin' in this verse is the same as above.
 2. Impute means, "To take an inventory of; to reckon, count, calculate, or make an account of."
 - D. O the blessedness of the man whose sins are covered!
- III. The Meaning of the Beatitude
- A. To be one of the blessed, one's sins must be covered.
 - B. There is a wrong way to cover sin (Luke 8:16-17; 23:28-30; Matthew 10:26; 2 Corinthians 4:3).
 1. Sin cannot be kept secret from God by attempting to hide it.
 2. Judgment for sin cannot be avoided by hiding from God.
 3. Sin cannot be erased by covering the Gospel with blindness.
 - C. The verb for "are covered" refers to an action in the past that has present consequences or repercussions.
 1. A sin once forgiven is forgiven forever.
 2. A sin once covered is never looked upon again by God.
 - D. Consider the role of love in covering sin (1 Peter 4:8).
 1. Love for another will cause one to show discretion and patience toward faults (cf. Proverbs 10:12; 17:9; 1 Corinthians 13:5, 7).
 2. Love for another will cause one to help correct sin (Mark 10:21; Ephesians 4:15).
 - E. Consider the role of the Gospel in covering sin (James 5:20).
 - F. Ultimately, it is only the blood of Jesus that can wash away one's sins (Revelation 1:5; 7:14; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7).
 - G. The blessed man is one whose sins are covered by the blood of Jesus.