

Beatitudes
What The Bible Teaches About Being Blessed

**BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO KEEPS THE
COMMANDMENTS**

Text: Revelation 22:7, 14

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. Keep the Sayings

- A. In the study of the Beatitudes, the need for obedience is emphasized several times (Psalm 1 [*Lesson 3*]; Psalm 112:1 [*Lesson 11*]; Matthew 5 [*Lessons 21 – 24*]; and James 1:25 [*Lesson 35*]).
- B. The book of Revelation begins with a Beatitude: ***“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand”*** (1:3).
 1. This beatitude (discussed fully in Lesson 11) demands obedience.
 2. It is fitting that the book of Revelation ends with a callback to this Beatitude and a reminder of the importance of obedience.
- C. God's Word is faithful and true – including the teaching of Revelation (22:6; cf. 19:9; 21:5; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- D. Therefore, His sayings must be kept – guarded, protected, and prevented from escaping (the mind or life).
 1. Thayer defines this word as: “To attend carefully, take care of; to observe.”
 2. Children are taught to take care of and not to mistreat their Bibles.
 3. Adults must remember to observe God's Word in their lives.
- E. This is the way to be one of the blessed!
 1. Motivated by love (John 14:15)
 2. Strengthened by patience (Revelation 14:12)
 3. Assured of Heaven (John 8:51)

II. Do the Commandments

- A. The final Beatitude of the Bible declares that the blessed are those who “do His commandments.”
 1. The primary meaning of the Greek word for ‘do’ is: “To make or produce.”
 2. However, it also means, “To do well, to act rightly; to carry out or execute; to perform (a promise).”
- B. Interestingly, modern translations render this verse as: “Blessed are they that wash their robes” (ASV, ESV).

Beatitudes
What The Bible Teaches About Being Blessed

1. The difference between the two phrases in the Greek is only a matter of a few letters.
 2. This translation harkens back to the angel's statement in 7:14.
 3. The only way one can wash his robes in the blood of the Lamb is to obey the Gospel of Christ by being baptized for the remission of sins (1:5; Acts 22:16; cf. Isaiah 1:18; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 5:26-27; Hebrews 9:14) and by faithfully walking in the light of God's Word (1 John 1:7).
- C. It is fitting that the Bible ends with encouragement to surrender in obedience to its commands.

III. Be Blessed

- A. One who does these things – keeps the sayings and does the commandments – will be one of the blessed.
- B. They will be given the right (authority, privilege, license) to the Tree of Life.
 1. The Tree of Life is located in the Paradise of God in Heaven (2:7; 22:2).
 2. Because of their obedience, the blessed are authorized by God to enjoy the blessing of the Tree of Life.
 3. This is a symbol of eternal life.
- C. They will be allowed to enter by the gates into the heavenly city of God.
 1. This may be a reference to the victory march of the faithful into Heaven.
 2. The disobedient do not have this right of access and are kept “without” or outside of Heaven.
- D. The blessed are the ones who go to Heaven!
- E. This is the importance of the Beatitudes!

Conclusion:

1. It should be noted that if the Word of God will not cause one to change his or her life, nothing will (22:11; cf. Luke 16:19, 31).
2. One who fails to obey God's Word will receive his just reward (22:12).
 - a. They will remain outside Heaven (22:15).
 - b. The obedient righteous will be allowed inside (22:14).
3. Yet, “whosoever will” may answer the invitation and “come” and “take the water of life freely” (22:17)!