

Beatitudes
What The Bible Teaches About Being Blessed

“IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE”

Text: Acts 20:35

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.
5. These principles have application in one’s life, one’s community, and one’s family.

I. The Context of the Beatitude (Acts 20:17-38)

- A. Paul was unable to travel to Ephesus, but he wanted to meet with the elders of the church in that city.
- B. He reminded them of the truth he had taught and the example he had set when he was with them.
 1. He served with humility (vs. 19).
 2. He warned with emotion (vs. 31).
 3. He sacrificed with loyalty (vs. 33-34).
- C. His teaching and example were to motivate the elders to lead and the church to act with faithfulness to the Lord’s will.
- D. Thus, he included the words of Jesus as a beatitude (vs. 35).

II. The Command of the Beatitude (Acts 20:35)

- A. Before quoting this statement of Jesus, Paul commanded the elders to labor to support the weak.
 1. They were to labor to help the weak just as diligently as Paul had labored to help the church.
 2. The word for “support” means, “To take hold of, to hold fast to, or to embrace; to help, to be a partaker of.”
 3. The weak are those who are needy, poor, or sick.
- B. While this principle applies spiritually, here it refers to those with physical needs.
- C. By helping others, one remembers the words of Jesus.
 1. In contrast, one who does not help others does not remember the words of Jesus.
 2. Obedience is essential (John 14:15).

III. The Blessedness of Giving

- A. The giver is blessed because he obeys the command of God (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Galatians 6:10).
- B. The giver is blessed because he is a steward of God’s gifts (Psalm 24:1; Matthew 25:14-30).

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- C. The giver is blessed because he imitates the example of God and develops the character of God (John 15:13; 1 John 3:16; 4:7-11).
- D. The giver is blessed because he has helped someone (2 Corinthians 8:12-14; 9:7-15; James 1:27).
- E. The giver is blessed because he avoids self-centeredness (Philippians 2:4).
- F. The giver is blessed because he opens doors for preaching the Gospel.
- G. The giver is blessed because he protects himself from the love of money (1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19).

Conclusion: May all God's children learn to be givers!