

Do You Want to Be Blessed? Change Your Attitude for a Beatitude! The Seven Beatitudes from Revelation

Stand Read Luke 6:20-26 Pray

Beatitude is the Latin word for blessed or happy.

Do you want to have God's Favor? Do you want to be blessed? Revelation is the only book in the bible that says, "Read me I'm special!" It comes with a divine promise to those that read and study it.

So, then why would people stay away from it? Why would churches hold this back from their congregations? Why would you think there is so much opposition to it? If God wants to bless you, and He does, who would be the one that would want to withhold that from you?

I have heard the excuses. We have quoted people like Rick Warren and the Gospel Coalition. We know some of you here are here because the churches you went to said they were not going to teach it. It's too controversial. We can't really understand it. It's a non-essential doctrine. If it is so non-essential why did Paul, make it part of his church planting teaching? He rebuked the Thessalonians when he said 2 Thessalonians 2:5 "Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?" Why did he think it was so necessary for them to know the whole timeline of the rapture and the tribulation if it wasn't important?

There is only one source that would keep you from God's blessings...Satan. I am not saying these guys are the enemy, but they are being used by him to keep from you the blessings that God has for you by being a bible student of the whole council of God. We have seen over and over again that Revelation demands that you know the Old Testament. It will cause you to go back and read and study and search for context.

2 Timothy 2:15 KJV

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Can you imagine going to a nice dinner and knowing that there is a fabulous dessert waiting for you at the end of the meal, but it gets held back from you. Or worse yet what if you had dinner and later on thought that dessert would have been nice, and someone tells you that they just never gave it to you or even offered it to you. How would you feel? After all they would say, it was a non-essential part of the meal. It wasn't important. You only really need the main course just focus on that!

Why would we not want all that God has to offer us? I am amazed at the lengths people will go to for their passions. Whether it's sports, cars, music, or some of these collector nuts. There are people that collect the strangest things. But think about it. Would they leave out any of their collection? No. They will save, search, haggle and travel the globe to find it.

So, how far are you willing to go to be blessed? Oh, I just love that church but it's too far a drive. Our local pastor is OK except when he gets on his social justice kick. They never teach prophecy over there but it's convenient. Our kids never have any fun over there. Then they wonder why they never seem to be blessed. But really, if we search our hearts, we all lack the proper attitude when it comes to seeking all that God would have for us. As a Pastor I do not want to have to stand before Jesus at the Bema seat and give Him a whole line of excuses. "I just kept the main thing the main thing" or "I just focused on the gospel" "Look, I filled the pews, didn't I?"

Jesus told Peter to "feed my lambs and tend my sheep". Just enough to survive? NO! Everything I have given you; you must give to them!

Matthew 10:7-8

And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. **Freely you have received, freely give.**

Well, I have been extremely blessed in this study of Revelation! I hate to see it end. But guess what? It's always there for us to study and to read on our own and to share with others. It's not sealed. It's not hidden. It's a blessing!

The first beatitude is right at the beginning...

1 - Those who Study the Book

Revelation 1:3

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

The first blessing we see is for those who read, study and share this book. This could be said of all of scripture but why this book? Because it finishes the story! The story of God's redemption. We know what is going to happen so we can persevere through the here and now. The first century church understood this.

2 - Those who die saved.

Revelation 14:13

Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

The next one comes after the midpoint of the Tribulation. After the announcement from the three angels, we this beatitude to those that will not take the mark. They might die a horrible death, but they are blessed because they are saved. Just like you and me!

3 - Watching for the Rapture

Revelation 16:15

"Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

This is a parenthetical passage in the middle of the sixth bowl judgment. It is saying to the reader, watch!

Luke 21:36

Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.

We need to be watching for the return of our savior who is coming at any moment.

4 - Knowing that you are Called

Revelation 19:9

Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

Do you know that you have an invitation? You are on the wedding party list! If you remember we are part of the marriage supper and the others, they are part of the supper of God. You do not want to be part of that!

5 - Being part of the First Resurrection

Revelation 20:6

Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Remember the saying "Born once, die twice. Born twice, die once" The blessing of knowing that you have a future. Eternal life is the gift given to you!

6 - Keeps the Word

Revelation 22:7

"Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

It's one thing to know the word but a whole other thing to keep it. The Greek word for keep is "Tereo" Literally, Guard, to keep an eye on, Watch. Fixed upon or keeping for the fulfillment of the prophecy. The blessing is for those that are aware that they are coming.

Why do we do prophecy updates? Because we are to know the times, we are living in. (Give a short defense on the red heifers are a big deal) It gives us great

hope that these things are going to come to pass soon. If the temple is coming soon Jesus is coming sooner!

7 - Finally, Does the word

Revelation 22:14

Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

We can read, study, memorize, keep the Word of God but if you don't do it what good is it?

James 2:14-26

14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! 20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, **so faith without works is dead** also.

If you are born again. If you are truly saved, you will want to obey God. Not only that but you will long for His return. You will want to know ALL His word. When

we are waiting for His return we will be working for Him. Let's close with the reminder from Titus.

Titus 2:11-15

11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 **looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing** of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, **zealous for good works.**

Notice the progression: we turn from the world to God and while we are looking for His return, we are zealous for good works. Then notice how Titus was to handle this truth...

15 Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

Eschatology is Essential!!!

I am not going to let anyone tell me that Revelation is non-essential. We have heard enough of what is essential and non-essential. For me the doctrine of the rapture and the second coming of Christ is very essential. It's my future and I want to know about it! People are free to believe anything they want but that doesn't mean it's true. I want to know and can know because the bible says so. And you know what? I am blessed because I have received it from the word!

Let me leave you with this last beatitude

Matthew 24:45-51

45 "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? 46 **Blessed** is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. 47 Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. 48 But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' 49 and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, 50 the master of that servant will come on a

day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, 51 and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Stand Pray Song Communion