

- ❖ **Beatitudes:** citizens of God's Kingdom take on these characteristics and enjoy these blessings ... **Union with Christ**
 - 1,8 bookends: **the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs** ... 2-7 interpreted through **Kingdom of Heaven** context ... Seeing your need for God leads to mourning over all that separates us from God, which leads you to honest humility before God and others, leading you to pursue God's way of living every day: giving away God's mercy to others, being devoted to God in every area, pursuing peace with others at all costs, and enduring persecution because of Jesus and His ways ... **By this we're salt and light**
- ❖ **Those Who Mourn:** spiritual mourning that leads to repentance, faith, growth in Christ ... Mourning over sin and effects of sin ... **My own** sin, suffering, sickness, pain ... **The World's** sin, suffering, injustice, famine, war, immorality
 - **Turn from Sin:** when you justify sin, you remain entangled in that sin ... It's one thing to repent of sin in general, it's a different ballgame when you repent of sin specifically ... You need to own it for what it is ... Spiritual mourning involves you seriously dealing with the sin in your life ... *God, what sin am I ignoring or justifying?* ... Get specific ... Confess and Repent
 - **Turn to Salvation:** you **repent in faith** – believing in what Christ makes available to everyone who turns to Him in faith ... You turn to the Savior who puts on Himself your sin and deserved punishment ... In exchange, He puts on you His justification and righteousness – sin is covered and forgiven, punishment is met and satisfied, you're at peace with God, and His righteousness is credited to your account in full ... **WINSLOW:** *If God has laid your sins upon the Son of His love, you may rest assured that He will never lay them a second time upon you; since, if Christ has borne them and atoned for them to divine justice, they never again can be found.* ... Turning from your sin, and turning to your salvation in Christ = **salvation becomes a definite reality**
 - **Grow in Sanctification:** Jesus **offered His own prayers and appeals with loud cries and tears to the One who was able to save Him from death ... He learned obedience from what He suffered (He5:7-8)** ... What you endure isn't foreign to Him ... Though He never sinned Himself, He endured the full measure of your sin and punishment ... As you mourn over your own sin and the sin around you, your fellowship with Jesus grows deeper ... His character and likeness become more evident in your life (**Rm5:3-5**)
- ❖ **Will be comforted:**
 - **Jn14:1-3** ... Jesus joins us to Himself thru the Holy Spirit ... The fullness of God dwells within us ... These are guaranteed promises that are fulfilled now and await a great fulfillment ... We're comforted by God's constant presence, never-ending forgiveness, physical adoption, sufficient grace and mercy ... The God of all comfort attends to our every need (**2Co1:3-4**)
 - **Rv7:17** ... One day our mourning will cease ... The presence of sin and suffering and evil will no longer exist ... This is our hope – a guaranteed reality we await to experience ... Until then we cling to the comfort found in **Ep1:20-23**

