

The First Beatitude In Psalms

The book of Psalms opens with a beatitude. "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful," (Psa. 1:1).

By Warren E. Berkley

does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly. (Can you imagine attempting to gain self-improvement and spiritual stimulation by watching the Jerry Springer Show?)

This is a description of a God-centered life. Those who live this way are "blessed." That frequent biblical word contains more than what we call "happiness" in contemporary use. Our word "happy" has to do with "happenings." Something happens that makes us happy. The biblical concept of "blessedness" goes much deeper; it signifies a deep sense of joy based on your God-centered way of life. "Happiness" in modern use depends upon events or happenings; "blessedness" in biblical use is not influenced by events, it is based on one's good relationship with God. An illustration of this is - Jesus spoke to His disciples about the joy or blessedness they would have; in the same conversation He told them they would be hated and persecuted. "Blessed are you when men persecute you." The "man" or person of Psalms 1:1 possesses blessedness because his life is God-centered. There is a depth of comfort, satisfaction and contentment he enjoys regardless of the events of life because His life doesn't depend upon events but upon His relationship with God.

He does not stand in the path of sinners. Apparently, the God-centered person is very careful about companionship. And, if you are walking in the pathway of righteousness (with God, toward heaven, following Christ) - why would you stand in the path of sinners? The path of sinners moves in the opposite direction from your destination!

He does not sit in the seat of the scornful. It is possible that the Holy Spirit is picturing for us a steady digression away from God and into sin. Walking, standing and then sitting may replicate that digression away from God. The point is, the God-centered person doesn't do this. The godly person avoids sin, stays on the right pathway, shuns the counsel of the ungodly, etc. In other words, this kind of person stays far away from sin and close to God. The result is - this person is blessed; biblical blessedness, not worldly happiness.

He walks not in the council of the ungodly. Think about a child of God, staying close to his Father; walking with God, joining with others who walk with God. This child of God does not seek the counsel of the ungodly! This person gains motivation and guidance from his father, and good influence and association from his brothers and sisters. The God-centered person

Is your life God-centered? Are your thoughts, decisions, attitudes and actions ordered by the Word of God, or do you take the advice of deceitful, wicked men? The person who lives a God-centered life "shall be like a tree planted" in fertile, well-watered soil that brings forth fruit in it's season!



Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey's Cousin)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father and Mac's grandfather)	Frank Hand (Anna and Humphrey's dad)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Wanda Price (Ada Owen's sister)
Betty Mcareavey (Mary Ann Roberts' mom)	Audrey Barnett (Joanetta's sister-in-law)	Betty Bradford	Hazel Gilliland and Sherry Carroll (Toni's relatives)
Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)	Joy Powell (Tori Luther's grandmother)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	William Smith (Ken Sullivan's brother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	William Herd	Rebecca Davis (Chuck Hahn's Niece)	Ray Humphrey (Seth's dad)
John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkin's Dad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Esther Biddle

January Birthdays

- 1-David Ogle
- 2-Savannah Spohn
- 2-Chuck Hunt
- 4-Phillip Box
- 6-Erica Seymore
- 7-Sarah Darby
- 9-Jordan Oldag
- 9-Liseth Aragon
- 9-Tyler Hudson
- 10-Mallory Randolph
- 11-Spencer Hall
- 11-Shepherd Hall
- 15-Michael Bassie
- 17-Anna English
- 18-Scott Vaughn
- 21-Jacob Jerkins
- 23-Connor Godwin
- 25-Caleb Daniels
- 25-Sara Lail
- 27-Blake Bagents
- 28-Holly McDaniel
- 30-Kayla Garlock
- 30-Kristi Garlock
- 31-Jennifer Daniels

News and Notes

- ☒ - Please remember the Tam's in your prayers as they are away in China until mid-January.
- ☒ - There is a meal list for the meeting on the bulletin board.
- ☒ - Perry Hill Road has meeting this weekend Fri-Sun with Ken McDaniel.
- ☒ - Please keep Joey McGee's aunt, Terri Moore, and their family in your prayers as she has been diagnosed with colon cancer.
- ☒ - Cards for the upcoming student study and weekend meeting with Doy Moyer are in the foyer.
- ☒ - Pray for Betty Bradford as she suffers from a wound in her foot.
- ☒ - Our new quarter starts today!
- ☒ - Gerald White continues to recover at home.
- ☒ - Teachers and hosts are needed for the upcoming monthly kids class.
- ☒ - All audio is immediately posted at: www.auchurch.com

The Auburn Beacon



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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O To Be Like Thee

By Dee Bowman



Thoughts to Ponder

For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps (1 Peter 2:21)

"O to be like Thee, Blessed Redeemer; this is my constant longing and prayer." It should be the prayer of every disciple of Christ.

It takes only a casual reading of Scripture to realize the genuineness, the greatness of our Blessed Redeemer. He was so good! Oh, to be like Him.

Jesus Christ was a man with no prejudice. He was certainly tempted toward such inclinations, I know, for the divine directive says, "He was tempted in all points like as are we, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15). He never treated one person in some special way, while neglecting another. No matter his station in life, every acquaintance of Jesus was accorded the same respect as any other. The Lord praised Peter when he made the confession "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," saying, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and

The Lord Jesus did not give thought to what might happen if He did right. He never reasoned from consequences.

blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven." But when Peter was rebuking Him for His statement about His mission to die for the sins of mankind, He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men" (Mt. 16:18-23). There was no prejudice in Jesus. What a joy it would be if we could rid ourselves of our pre-conceived no-

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Sunday
Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM
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tions, our biases, and our party partialities. Prejudice is the springboard to sin; and open mind is a fit dwelling place for truth.

Jesus Christ never said anything about anybody that did not result in that person's good. This is not to say He was a weak, frail soul who never had any viewpoints of His own—far from it. Never has a man lived who stirred such controversy or had a more profound effect on the course of human events. He sternly rebuked error, inequity, immorality whenever and wherever He saw it. But His teaching was directed so that whether He spoke words of encouragement and praise or made cutting remarks of stern reproof, those words were always intended to bring benefit to the hearer and never were they directed for purposes of vindication, revenge, or even self-preservation. He knew what to say and how and when to say it. How great it would be if we could be like Him "let all things be done to edification" (**1 Cor. 14:26**).

Jesus Christ was completely free from selfishness. The life He lived was motivated solely by His desire to serve. He came, He said, "to do the will of Him that sent me" (**Jn. 4:34**), He not only dedicated Himself totally to that commitment, but served His fellows in a way that could not be done by any other when He sacrificed Himself for our sins. Even when He was dying on that cruel cross at Calvary, some of His last thoughts were of the fallen. "Forgive them," He said, "for they know not what they do" (Lk.23:34). What a trait! What love!

Oh, to be free from selfishness. "O to be like Thee, blessed Redeemer."

Knowing full well what would be the consequences of His answer, that it most certainly would result in His demise, when asked if He was king of the Jews, He remarked, "Thou sayest." Realizing that to do so was to incur the disfavor of the ecclesiastical hierarchy of His day, He openly rebuked their distorted view of the law of Moses. Already convinced that to rebuke the Jewish leaders was tantamount to His death, He referred to them as "whited sepulchers" which were full of dead men's bones." We would do well to notice that He didn't consider consequences; He considered truth. If we would please God today, we must be more concerned about what will happen if we don't follow God than what will be the consequences of having done right. "O to be like Thee, blessed Redeemer."

The Lord Jesus Christ was the most compassionate person who ever lived. How He cared! "O, Jerusalem, Jerusalem," He said, "how often would I have gathered thy children together...and ye would not" (**Matt. 23:37**). Mark's account says He "had compassion toward the people when He saw their leaderless condition and "He began to teach them many things (**Mk. 6:34**). His compassion was culminated when He willingly gave Himself to die for the same people who reviled, blasphemed, spat upon, and finally crucified Him on a cross. What sympathy! What unmerited concern! What indefatigable grace! What boundless love."

"O to be like Thee, blessed Redeemer. This is my constant longing and prayer."



Courtesy

By Morris D. Norman

How can sisters and brothers not speak to one another (in Christ or in the flesh)? How can saints speak words that hurt to the quick?

Whatever happened to old fashioned courtesy? Oh, it's still around, but it is becoming rarer and rarer, even among those who call themselves the children of God. The English word means, "courtly politeness, graceful and considerate behavior toward others." Refined people are courteous. They have a respect for the rights, privileges and feelings of others. The crude and uneducated are discourteous. I refer not to formal education, but to be educated in ethics and morals; I refer to the education that refines the character and develops love and regard for mankind in general. "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." No one is fully educated until he learns to be kind in feeling toward others and treats them with respect.

There are three words that are translated from the Greek into the English words courteously, courteous and the like in the King James. **1 Peter 3:8** has "be courteous" and means to be humble minded. The person who lacks courtesy is self-centered and arrogant. The Christian is to be lowly-minded, to condescend to others (**Rom. 12:16**), to consider others better than self, not looking to his own things but on the things of others (**Phil. 2:3,4**). There is no way that we can be discourteous while we are concentrating on serving others.

In **Acts 28:7** Paul was entertained "courteously" by the islanders where he was shipwrecked. Other versions use the word hospitality. The Greek word here means to have friendly thoughtfulness. Old fashioned hospitality is the force of it, to be thoughtful and friendly, even toward strangers. "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unaware" (**Heb. 13:2**). Use hospitality one to another without grudging (**1 Pet. 4:7**).

The, third word is used of the treatment that the centurion afforded Paul as a prisoner when he treated Paul courteously, other versions say "kindly" (**Acts 27:3**). This Greek word is the one from* which we get our English word "philanthropic," which means to

have a "love for mankind, devotion to human welfare, good will to all men."

From these three words we get the concept of what the Christian's attitude ought to be toward all men, regardless of their own station in life and regardless of the station of others. Rudeness comes from being self-centered, out of a selfish spirit. Alexander Campbell said, "A selfish person is always impolite, ungentlemanly and unchristian in his manners. This is manifested even in

the beggarly elements of indecency, from the tobacco chewer up to the verist gormandizer (vulgar glutton, MDN), or from him who smokes in your face to him who smites you on the face." To ignore the dignity and rights of others is an outrageous injury.

To whom should we be courteous? To everyone!! Wives and husbands should have the utmost courtesy toward each other. Parents should be courteous to their children; and children to their parents; subjects to rulers; rulers to subjects; brethren to their own brethren; brethren to those who are not their brethren.

How can a courteous saint ignore a visitor in the assembly? How can sisters and brothers not speak to one another (in Christ or in the flesh)? How can saints speak words that hurt to the quick? Even if we disagree in policy or doctrine, we cannot be discourteous and have the spirit of the Master.

How can we develop courteous people? Learn the will of the Lord and do it. Teach it to your children, practice it before them. Show them the need of respect for others. Teach them to rise when a person older than they enters the room. Teach your sons how to treat ladies. Teach them how to speak kindly, to act kindly. Refined people are truly educated people; refined people are truly courteous people. Christians are truly educated people for they have learned from the Master. Christians are always courteous!!!

