

## The Beatitudes of The Revelation

- Even though the bulk of the message of the **Revelation** concerned the churches in existence during the **Roman** dominated world of the first century up to the fourth, and the persecution that came from it, these are messages that have been “written aforetime” and are “for **our** learning, that we through patience and comfort of scriptures might have hope”. (*Rom 15:4*) Even though they were written to brethren who have long since gone to their rest, can we still make application to them in our lives as **Christians** living almost two centuries later? Can’t we also make application from **Old Testament** instructions concerning morality and **Christian** living today? The answer obviously is yes. There are seven passages in the **Revelation** where specific blessings can be found that can apply to the church today even though the majority of the prophecies contained in the last book of the **Bible** have already been fulfilled.

Blessed- *Gk.3107- supremely blest; fortunate, well off.*

### 1.) Read, Hear, Keep

**Rev 1:3** **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.

- This is a three-part blessing just as the **Godhead** has three persons. Remove **One** and there would be no triune **Godhead**. Reading without understanding something isn’t a blessing. Reading and understanding without guarding what you’ve come to understand doesn’t complete the action necessary to receive the blessing either. *Read- Gk.314- to know again, that is, to read.* Thus there is a certain amount of going back over the reading to re-familiarize one’s self with the subject over and over. As a learned brother in the church once said, that when you don’t understand a particular passage of scripture, before going immediately to a commentary or asking another member, read it over several times, taking breaks in between, before relying on the comments of an uninspired, fallible human being. Remember always the **Bereans**.

**Act 17:10** And the brethren immediately sent away **Paul** and **Silas** by night unto **Berea**: who coming *thither* went into the synagogue of the **Jews**. **11** These were more noble than those in **Thessalonica**, in that they **received** (*Gk.1209- accept*) **the word with all readiness of mind**, and **searched the scriptures daily**, whether those things were so. **12** Therefore **many of them believed**; also of honourable women which were **Greeks**, and of men, not a few.

- *Hear- Gk.191- to hear: -understand.* Obviously, after rereading anything we will soon have a grasp on the subject where we will then understand it. The whole purpose of the prophesy to the churches was to have them ready for the, then, upcoming persecution.

**2Ti 2:15** Study (*Gk.4704- to make effort, be prompt or earnest*) to shew thyself approved unto **God**, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing (*Gk.3718- dissect [expound] correctly [the divine message]*) the word of truth.

- How will we ever understand the word of **God** unless we dissect it through intense **Bible** study? **Jesus** promoted the same thing when he warned **His** disciples to flee **Jerusalem** when they saw the signs of the encroaching **Roman** army as they surrounded **Jerusalem**.

Mat 24:1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and His disciples came to Him for to shew Him the buildings of the temple. 2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. 3 And as He sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world (*Gk.165- age*)?

- It was at that point that Jesus revealed to them the end of the Mosaic age with all the suffering that would befall Jerusalem at the hands of the Roman government. His coming then had to do with a visitation of judgment on Jerusalem for not accepting Him as the Messiah. Only those who heeded His warning, just as those faithful members of the churches of Asia, survived because they paid attention to Jesus' advice. With the reading and hearing the churches of Asia were then blessed if they kept the words of that particular prophesy. *Keep- Gk.5083- to guard (from loss or injury, properly by keeping the eye upon)*. John revealed to the churches of Asia of the impending persecution that was coming from Rome. Jerusalem was sacked in 70 AD but the church wasn't yet out of danger then. John's writing of the Revelation (*around 96 AD*) was after Jerusalem fell. As Paul told the Thessalonians to continue to watch for the coming of the Lord, we also don't know when Jesus will return. We only know that He will.

1Th 5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. 2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. 4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. 5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

- As long as we read, understand and stay alert, knowing Jesus could return even as we speak, we will continually be blessed by Him. But what if He doesn't come before you die? What will become of all the works you've labored so hard at to bring others to the knowledge of the truth? There's a blessing for that!

## 2.) Die in The Lord

Rev 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, **Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord** from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and **their works do follow them**.

- What does it mean to be in the Lord when you die? This is just another passage that shows the importance of following what the Bible says (*and thus what Jesus taught*) if we want to take advantage of the blessings that God makes available to everyone.

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized **into Christ** have **put on Christ**.

- Rest has more to do with the work we are doing for the sake of the kingdom's survival than it does concerning the work we do for the sake of our own personal physical survival. Although the physical body does benefit from the **physical** death that the faithful will all, in time, have to endure (*unless Jesus comes in the meantime*). We've been given a work, known as the great commission, that should come before any secular work the faithful must sustain for our earthly existence. It never ends no matter how old

we are as long as we have the physical and mental capacity to perform such. There's no handing the torch to the next generation as long as we are able to carry it ourselves. That excuse won't fly when the time comes to answer the **Eternal Judge** as to why we've laid our armor down prematurely. Therefore, for our **works to follow** us means that they follow us to the grave, will continue on through others after we're gone and will also follow us to the judgment.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before **God**; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, **according to their works**.

- Again, a lot of stress is put on being ready, to expect **His** coming at any moment.

### 3.) Those Who Watch, Keep Their Garments

Rev 16:15 Behold, I come as a thief. **Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.**

- In Rev 3:5 Jesus said “**He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life...**” Christians have been clothed in **Christ** through obedience to baptism. Thus **Christ** has become our garment. The word **keepeth** here is the same as the word **keep** in 1:3. Thus we are to continually keep an eye on the garment we are wearing, by not allowing it to be soiled in sin, so as not to bring shame and reproach to the **Name** by which we have been named. Without being clothed in **Christ** in the first place, or to have soiled **His** holy name through committing sin, our iniquities will all be exposed for **Satan's** liking. But...

Jas 1:12 Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the **Lord** hath promised to them that love Him.

- Only those who endure temptation then will receive the crown of victory and are the only ones to be “called unto the marriage supper of the **Lamb**”.

### 4.) Those Called

Rev 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, **Blessed are they which are called** unto the marriage supper of the **Lamb**. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of **God**.

- Those who are bidden to the marriage, and who respond to the invitation, are the fortunate ones. How are we called unto the supper? What constitutes our RSVP? The invitation comes through the message of the gospel and our response to it.

2Th 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to **God** for you, brethren beloved of the **Lord**, because **God** hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the **Spirit** and belief of the truth: **14** Whereunto **He called you by our gospel**, to the **obtaining** of the glory of our **Lord Jesus Christ**.

- **Paul** wasn't claiming the gospel originated with him but did claim ownership to it as we all should. But that calling can fall on deaf ears.

2Pe 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure (*Gk.949- stable: -firm, steadfast*): for **if** ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

- We are only eternally secure **as long as** we are eternally faithful.

### 5.) The First Resurrection

Rev 20:6 **Blessed** and holy *is* he that **hath** (*Gk.2192- possession, contiguity [Webster- in contact with, next, near], relation*) **part in the first resurrection**: on such the **second death** hath no power, but they shall be priests of **God** and of **Christ**, and shall reign with **Him** a thousand years.

- Presently, faithful **Christians** already enjoy eternal life...possessing the promise of it. Once the persecution by the **Romans** ended, the figurative 1000 year reign began for the **New Testament** priesthood made up of the saints of **God**. Faithful **Christians** have a home waiting for us in **Heaven**. **Christ** paid the down payment with **His** blood and sealed the deal with the **Holy Spirit of promise** (*Eph 1:13*). It's up to us to continue paying toward that "mortgage" through our obedience to **His** word. If we miss a payment in service to **Him** we can renew the contract by humbly repenting.

Eph 1:3 Blessed *be* the **God** and **Father** of our **Lord Jesus Christ**, **Who** hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in **Christ**:

Eph 1:11 In **Whom** also we have **obtained an inheritance**, being predestinated according to the purpose of **Him Who** worketh all things after the counsel of **His Own** will: 12 That we should be to the praise of **His** glory, who first trusted in **Christ**. 13 In **Whom** ye also *trusted*, after that ye **heard the word of truth, the gospel** of your salvation: in **Whom** also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that **Holy Spirit** of promise, 14 **Who** is the **earnest** (*Gk.728- a pledge, that is, part of the purchase money or property in advance as security for the rest*) of our inheritance until the redemption of the **purchased possession**, unto the praise of **His** glory.

- Just as having a deed waiting once a mortgage is paid in full, we can redeem that home that awaits us, with having the down payment (*i.e., Jesus' blood*) already paid toward it. But if we stop paying toward ultimately owning that home, we forfeit ownership. In this case we not only lose that residence in **Heaven**, we lose our eternal souls.

Heb 10:26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, (*nothing but the blood of Jesus can save us*) 27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

- Concerning the second death.

Rom 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into **Jesus Christ** were baptized into **His** death? 4 Therefore we are buried with **Him** by baptism into death: that like as **Christ** was **raised up from the dead** by the glory of the **Father**, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (*Faithful Christians are dead to the world. Our first resurrection from that death was when we rose to "walk I newness of life".*) 5 For **if** (*thus we are given a choice in the matter*) we have been planted together in the likeness of **His** death, **we shall be also in the likeness of His**

**resurrection:** 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin. 8 Now if we be dead with **Christ**, we believe that we shall also live with **Him**: 9 Knowing that **Christ** being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over **Him**. *(Just as Jesus rose from the dead to die no more, we, who have been faithful, and will continue to be so until death, will be resurrected on the day of judgment, and will **not face the second death** to be separated from God for an eternity since it will **have no hold on us**.)*

- In order for there to be a second to **anything** there must be a first. The first death and resurrection is spiritual (*i.e., baptism*) for all who have been obedient to the message of the gospel, even though everyone can expect to die physically (*unless Christ returns beforehand*). The first death is physical **and** spiritual then, for those who have **not** obeyed (*or continue to obey*) the gospel message. Physical death is separation of the soul from the physical body but spiritual death occurs when the soul becomes separated from **God**. We might all experience a physical death. **Most**, though, will, by their ultimate choice, face a second, spiritual death, being separated from **God** for an eternity.

Mat 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and **many** there be which go in there at: 14 Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and **few** there be that find it.

- Therefore we remain paid up and current on the heavenly mortgage as long as we remain faithful to our **Mortgage Holder** by taking care to watch out lest we be delinquent.

#### 6.) Keep The Sayings

Rev 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: **blessed** *is* he that **keepeth the sayings** of the prophecy of this book.

- **Jesus** warned the first century church that **He** would visit them with judgment if they didn't heed **His** warning to remain pure from the influences of the pagan practices that the **Roman** government sanctioned. **His** judgment was soon to come on **Rome** and they weren't to be partakers with **Rome** in her idolatry and other iniquities or they would suffer right along with her. The same can be true to us today if we participate in and/or agree with government sanctioned practices such as any law establishing homosexual relationships, secular divorce, abortion or anything else that goes against the word of **God**. We become delinquent when we fail to keep an eye on **His** word. Even though the sayings here in the **Revelation** were to a specific group of **Christians**, written to the seven churches of **Asia** means it has application to the whole church from her inception to the resurrection; seven being the figurative number of completeness.

#### 7.) Do His Commandments

Rev 22:14 **Blessed** *are* they that **do His commandments**, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

- In 1 Jn 1:7 "if we walk in the light" (**continually do His commandments**) ..."the blood of **Jesus Christ His Son** cleanseth us from all sin". Only those who obey **Christ's** commandments have a right to the tree of life, thus eternal life. The tree of life is found inside the city four square, through the pearly portals. Will you be entering there?

#1. Haven't you heard?

Luk 11:28 Jesus said, "... **blessed** are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."

#2. Don't you believe?

Eph 1:13 In **Whom** ye also *trusted*, **after** that ye **heard** the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in **Whom** also **after** that ye **believed**, ye were **sealed** with that **Holy Spirit** of promise, 14 **Who** is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of **His** glory.

#3. Won't you repent?

Mat 9:13 "... I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

*(This was a reprimand to the self-righteous since Jesus understood...)*

Rom 3:23 ... all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

#4. Won't you acknowledge Christ as the Son of God?

Mat 10:32 "**Whosoever** therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father Who is in Heaven."

#5. Won't you have your sins washed away?

Act 2:37 Now when they **heard** *this*, they were pricked in their heart (*because they believed what they heard*), and said unto **Peter** and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, **what shall we do?**

Act 2:38 Then **Peter** said unto them, "**Repent**, and **be baptized** every one of you **in the name of Jesus Christ** (*acknowledging His "Sonship"*) **for** the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the **Holy Ghost** (*the "earnest of our inheritance"*)".

#6. Once you've done all these things, will you remain faithful?

1Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye **steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord**, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the **Lord**.

#7. Will you resolve to keep growing?

Php 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may **abound** yet **more and more in knowledge** and *in* all judgment; 10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may **be sincere** and without offence till the day of **Christ**; 11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by **Jesus Christ**, unto the glory and praise of **God**.

- The life of a **Christian** is not to be considered an easy one. It is to be considered a commitment to faithfulness, love and duty to **God** and to **His** people. But after all is said and done, after the last breath on earth is taken and all labor ceases, an inheritance in eternal bliss awaits the faithful saint. Are you enjoying these blessings? Will you come?

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