



GREATER HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH

CYBER BIBLE STUDY



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**CYBER SERIES:
“USE THE WORD”**



TONIGHT'S LESSON:

BLESSINGS

**HOW DOES IT FEEL
TO BE BLESSED?**

bless•ed (ˈblɛs ɪd; esp. for **3,7** blɛst)

adj.

1. consecrated; sacred; sanctified.
2. worthy of adoration, reverence, or worship: *the Blessed Trinity*.
3. favored; fortunate: *blessed with common sense*.
4. blissfully happy.
5. beatified.
6. bringing happiness and thankfulness: *the blessed assurance of a steady income*.
7. (used as an intensifier): *every blessed cent*.

[1125–75]

bless'ed•ly, *adv.*

bless'ed•ness, *n.*

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BLESSED=HAPPY

"MAKARIOS" ("BLESSED")
MUH-KAR-OS

Greek definition taken from the Theological
dictionary of the New Testament.

GREEK HISTORY OF THE WORD MAKARIOS (BLESSED)

IN ANCIENT GREEK TIMES, MAKARIOS REFERRED TO THE GODS. **THE BLESSED ONES WERE THE GODS.** THEY HAD ACHIEVED A STATE OF HAPPINESS AND CONTENTMENT IN LIFE THAT WAS BEYOND ALL CARES, LABORS, AND EVEN DEATH. THE BLESSED ONES WERE BEINGS WHO LIVED IN SOME OTHER WORLD AWAY FROM THE CARES AND PROBLEMS AND WORRIES OF ORDINARY PEOPLE. **TO BE BLESSED, YOU HAD TO BE A GOD.**

MAKARIOS TOOK ON A SECOND MEANING. IT REFERRED TO THE "DEAD". THE BLESSED ONES WERE HUMANS, WHO, THROUGH DEATH, HAD REACHED THE OTHER WORLD OF THE GODS. THEY WERE NOW BEYOND THE CARES AND PROBLEMS AND WORRIES OF EARTHLY LIFE. TO BE BLESSED, YOU HAD TO BE DEAD. THAT IS THE ORIGIN OF THE DIFFERENT SAINTS DAYS -- THEY ARE REMEMBERED ON THE DATES OF THEIR DEATHS. ALL SAINTS DAY WAS FOR ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAD DIED IN THE FAITH WHOSE NAMES WE DIDN'T KNOW.

FINALLY, IN GREEK USAGE, MAKARIOS CAME TO REFER TO THE ELITE, THE UPPER CRUST OF SOCIETY, THE WEALTHY PEOPLE. IT REFERRED TO PEOPLE WHOSE RICHES AND POWER PUT THEM ABOVE THE NORMAL CARES AND PROBLEMS AND WORRIES OF THE LESSER FOLK -- THE PEONS, WHO CONSTANTLY STRUGGLE AND WORRY AND LABOR IN LIFE. **TO BE BLESSED, YOU HAD TO BE VERY RICH AND POWERFUL.**

WHEN THIS WORD, MAKARIOS WAS USED IN THE GREEK TRANSLATION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT, IT TOOK ON ANOTHER MEANING. IT REFERRED TO THE RESULTS OF RIGHT LIVING OR RIGHTEOUSNESS. **IF YOU LIVED RIGHT, YOU WERE BLESSED.** BEING BLESSED MEANT YOU RECEIVED EARTHLY, MATERIAL THINGS: A GOOD WIFE, MANY CHILDREN, ABUNDANT CROPS, RICHES, HONOR, WISDOM, BEAUTY, GOOD HEALTH, ETC. A BLESSED PERSON HAD MORE THINGS AND BETTER THINGS THAN AN ORDINARY PERSON. **TO BE BLESSED, YOU HAD TO HAVE BIG AND BEAUTIFUL THINGS.**

IN ALL OF THESE MEANINGS, THE "BLESSED" ONES LIVED IN A HIGHER PLANE THAN THE REST OF US. THEY WERE GODS. THEY WERE HUMANS WHO HAD GONE TO THE WORLD OF THE GODS. THEY WERE THE WEALTHY, UPPER CRUST. THEY WERE THOSE WITH MANY POSSESSIONS. THE BLESSED WERE THOSE PEOPLE AND BEINGS WHO LIVED ABOVE THE NORMAL CARES, PROBLEMS, AND WORRIES OF NORMAL PEOPLE.



The BEATITUDES

MATTHEW 5:1-12

**WHAT IS A
BEATITUDE?**

The Beatitudes

- Beatitude literally means “bliss.” The Beatitudes lead us to happiness.
 - ▣ Each Beatitude begins with “Blessed are” or “Happy are”.
 - ▣ However, they are also very contrary to what most people recognize as happiness!

THE BELIEVERS CONDITION AND REWARD

- ▶ **POOR IN SPIRIT** DOES NOT MEAN YOU ARE DEPRESSED OR SAD, IT MEANS YOU ARE HUMBLE, AND YOU RECOGNIZE YOU NEED THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD TO LIVE IN YOU, IN ORDER FOR YOU TO BE WHAT GOD CREATED YOU TO BE.
- ▶ **THEY THAT MOURN** ARE THOSE WHO ARE SAD ABOUT THE STATE AND FATE OF NON-BELIEVERS OF THIS WORLD.
- ▶ **THE MEEK** ARE THE BELIEVERS WHO HAVE THE ABILITY TO ALWAYS REST IN SELF CONTROL. NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT THINGS BECOME THE MEEK WILL ALWAYS BE ABLE TO FIND PEACE IN THEIR SITUATION.
- ▶ **THEY WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS** ARE THOSE WHO CONTINUALLY SEEK THE JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND MORALITY OF THAT BROTHERLY LOVE GIVES US.

5 AND SEEING THE MULTITUDES, HE WENT UP INTO A MOUNTAIN: AND WHEN HE WAS SET, HIS DISCIPLES CAME UNTO HIM:

2 AND HE OPENED HIS MOUTH, AND TAUGHT THEM, SAYING,

3 BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT: FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

4 BLESSED ARE THEY THAT MOURN: FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED.

5 BLESSED ARE THE MEEK: FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH.

6 BLESSED ARE THEY WHICH DO HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS: FOR THEY SHALL BE FILLED.

THE MANIFESTATION (ACTIONS) OF THE BELIEVERS

- ▶ **THE MERCIFUL** WILL PERFORM ACTS THAT EXHIBIT MERCY TOWARDS THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM DISTRESS.
- ▶ **THE PURE OF HEART** WILL PERFORM SELFLESS ACTS THAT HAVE NO POSSIBLE PERSONAL BENEFIT. I.E. ANONYMOUS GIVING.
- ▶ **THE PEACEMAKERS** LIVE PEACEFUL LIVES AND STRIVE TO BRING PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TO OTHERS. THESE BELIEVERS ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT TO INTERVENE IN DISPUTES, AND PRAY FOR THE CONTRARY SPIRITS THAT SPUR CONTROVERSY AND DRAMA.

THE SUFFERING OF THE BELIEVER

- ▶ **THE PERSECUTED** ARE THOSE WHO ARE PUNISHED IN SOME FORM OR ANOTHER BECAUSE OF THEIR FAITH AND WILLINGNESS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.
- ▶ THERE IS NO MORE HONORABLE CALLING THAN TO BE WILLING TO FACE PERSECUTION, RIDICULE, AND VIOLENCE BECAUSE YOU STAND UP FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE, ESPECIALLY IN THESE TERRIBLE AND PERILOUS TIMES.

7 BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL: FOR THEY SHALL
OBTAIN MERCY.

8 BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART: FOR THEY SHALL
SEE GOD.

9 BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS: FOR THEY SHALL
BE CALLED THE CHILDREN OF GOD.

**10 BLESSED ARE THEY WHICH ARE PERSECUTED FOR
RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE:** FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF
HEAVEN.

11 BLESSED ARE YE, WHEN MEN SHALL REVILE YOU,
AND PERSECUTE YOU, AND SHALL SAY ALL MANNER OF
EVIL AGAINST YOU FALSELY, FOR MY SAKE.

12 REJOICE, AND BE EXCEEDING
GLAD: **FOR GREAT IS YOUR
REWARD IN HEAVEN:** FOR SO
PERSECUTED THEY THE
PROPHETS WHICH WERE BEFORE
YOU.

POINTS OF INFORMATION ON BLESSINGS

- ▶ THE OPPOSITE OF BLESSED OR HAPPY, IS NOT UNHAPPY OR SAD, **THE OPPOSITE OF BLESSED IS CURSED.**
- ▶ THE FIRST SERMON OF CHRIST WAS ON BEING BLESSED, LIVING RIGHTEOUSLY, AND **THE REWARD OF BEING BLESSED.**
- ▶ THIS SERMON WAS NOT AN ATTEMPT TO SAVE SOULS, BUT INSTRUCTION ON HOW TO LIVE A LIFE WORTHY OF THE REWARD OF SALVATION, AND HOW TO BE HAPPY DOING IT.



PSALM 1

1 BLESSED IS THE MAN THAT WALKETH NOT IN THE COUNSEL OF THE UNGODLY, **NOR STANDETH** IN THE WAY OF SINNERS, **NOR SITTETH** IN THE SEAT OF THE SCORNFUL.

2 BUT HIS DELIGHT IS IN THE LAW OF THE LORD; AND IN HIS LAW DOETH HE **MEDITATE DAY AND NIGHT.**

3 AND HE SHALL BE LIKE A TREE PLANTED BY THE RIVERS OF WATER, THAT BRINGETH FORTH HIS FRUIT IN HIS SEASON; HIS LEAF ALSO SHALL NOT WITHER; AND WHATSOEVER HE DOETH SHALL PROSPER.

4 THE UNGODLY ARE NOT SO: BUT ARE LIKE THE CHAFF WHICH THE WIND DRIVETH AWAY.

5 THEREFORE THE UNGODLY SHALL NOT STAND IN THE JUDGMENT, NOR SINNERS IN THE CONGREGATION OF THE RIGHTEOUS.

6 FOR THE LORD KNOWETH THE WAY OF THE RIGHTEOUS: BUT THE WAY OF THE UNGODLY SHALL PERISH.

**HOW IMPORTANT IS LIVING
A RIGHTEOUS LIFE IN
ORDER TO BE BLESSED?**

DEUTERONOMY 11:26-28

26 BEHOLD, I SET BEFORE YOU THIS DAY **A BLESSING
AND A CURSE;**

27 **A BLESSING, IF YE OBEY THE COMMANDMENTS OF
THE LORD YOUR GOD, WHICH I COMMAND YOU THIS
DAY:**

28 **AND A CURSE, IF YE WILL NOT OBEY THE
COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD YOUR GOD, BUT TURN
ASIDE OUT OF THE WAY WHICH I COMMAND YOU THIS
DAY, TO GO AFTER OTHER GODS, WHICH YE HAVE NOT
KNOWN.**

**DO WE OWE GOD
ANYTHING FOR OUR
BLESSINGS?**

MALACHI 3:10

**10 BRING YE ALL THE TITHES INTO THE
STOREHOUSE, THAT THERE MAY BE MEAT
IN MINE HOUSE, AND PROVE ME NOW
HEREWITH, SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS,
IF I WILL NOT OPEN YOU THE WINDOWS
OF HEAVEN, AND POUR YOU OUT A
BLESSING, THAT THERE SHALL NOT BE
ROOM ENOUGH TO RECEIVE IT.**

PSALMS 5:12

12 FOR THOU, LORD, **WILT
BLESS THE RIGHTEOUS;**
WITH FAVOUR WILT THOU
COMPASS HIM AS WITH A
SHIELD.

**IS THERE A PENALTY
FOR BEING BLESSED?**

PROVERBS 10:22

22 THE BLESSING OF THE LORD,
IT MAKETH RICH, AND HE ADDETH
NO SORROW WITH IT.

**ISN'T THERE ANOTHER
MEANING TO THE WORD
BLESS?**

I will Bless
the Lord
at ALL times:
his praise shall
continually be in
my mouth.

Psalms 34:1 (KJV)



*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me, bless His holy name.*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget none of His benefits;*

*Who pardons all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases;*

*Who redeems your life from the pit,
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;*

*Who satisfies your years with good things,
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.*

(Psalm 103: 1-5)