

CONFIRMATION

“Watermark”

9/17/06

“Watermark” = A watermark in printing is a design or text found in the background of a piece you are producing.... As we begin this series on “THE BEATITUDES” consider Matthew 5:20 as the watermark for the collection of messages to be given. It says, ²⁰“*For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.*” (NASB)

“THE BEATITUDES” effectively accomplishes the dual task of clarifying whether you *are* a Christ-follower and providing significant substance for becoming *more* like Jesus.

Our Text:

¹*Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²And 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 those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

⁵*“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*

⁶*“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

⁷*“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.*

⁸*“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

⁹*“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

¹⁰*“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

¹¹*“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you” (Matthew 5:1-11 ESV).*

A NEW STANDARD OF LIVING:

Defined:

Matthew 5:20 - “...unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

A WHOLE NEW APPROACH TO LIFE

A PRESENT TESTIMONY CONSISTENT WITH HIS PRIORITIES

It will involve:

- A P_____ TO KNOW & OBEY

2 Peter 1:5-10 – ⁵*For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.*

- A D_____ TO BE CHRIST LIKE

Matthew 5:48, ⁴⁸*Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”*

