

College of the Scriptures

Greater Christ Temple APOSTOLIC CHURCH

2940 S. Anthony Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46806

Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6:00 PM

“Blessed”

Part 02

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pastor / teacher



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Blessed Are Those Who Mourn

Matthew 5:4

4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

- Blessed are they mourn is another strange blessing, and fitly follows the former (blessed are the poor in spirit). The poor are accustomed to mourning. We are conditioned to think, “blessed are the cheerful”, but Christ says blessed are the mourners, as Christ was Himself a great mourner:

Isaiah 53:3

3 He is despised and rejected of men; **a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief:** and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Matthew 23:37-38

37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! **38** See! Your house is left to you desolate;

- There is a sinful mourning, which is an enemy to blessedness – the sorrow of the world. There is a natural mourning, which can prove to be a friend to blessedness, by the grace of God working through it, and sanctifying to us the sorrows for which we mourn. Natural mourning does cause the natural man to look to God.

But there is a gracious mourning, which qualifies for blessedness, a habitual state of soberness in the soul which has been crucified to the

vanities of sinful enjoyment because of the ungodliness by which it is surrounded.

- This is a repentant mourning for one's own sins. This is godly sorrow, a sorrow according to God, a sorrow for sin with a mind to withdraw from sinning and follow Christ. Those who mourn in this manner are God's mourners, who live a life of repentance, who are grieved by the corruption of their own nature and their many transgressions, and the resulting separation from God:

2 Corinthians 7:9-11

9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. **10** For godly sorrow produces repentance⁴

leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. **11** For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

- This blessing also applies to those who, out of regard to God's honor, mourn also for the sins of others, who sigh and cry for their abominations: Ezekiel 9:4-6

4 and the Lord said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it." **5** To the others He said in my hearing, "Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your

spare, nor have any pity. **6** Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary." So they began with the elders who were before the temple.

- This is a sympathizing mourning for the afflictions of others, the mourning of those who weep with the that weep (Romans 12:15), and are sorrowful for the neglected, abused, and fleshly state of God's holy assembly (the Church):

Zephaniah 3:18-20

18 "I will gather those who sorrow over the appointed assembly, Who are among you, To whom its reproach is a burden. **19** Behold, at that time I will deal with all who afflict you; I will save the lame, And gather those ⁶

were driven out; I will appoint them for praise and fame In every land where they were put to shame. **20** At that time I will bring you back, Even at the time I gather you; For I will give you fame and praise Among all the peoples of the earth, When I return your captives before your eyes,” Says the Lord.

- This mourning is that of those who are grieved for the desolation of Zion (Psalm 137:1), especially those who look with compassion on perishing souls, and weep over them, just as Christ wept over Jerusalem and her inhabitants (Matthew 23:37-38).
- Just as in vain, drunken, and sinful laughter the heart is truly sorrowful, so in gracious mourning the heart has a serious joy, a secret satisfaction, which a stranger does not understand because the gracious mourner has hope in Christ and in His promised restoration of all things.

- They are blessed because they have become the imitation of Christ, who was a man of sorrows, and of whom we never read that He laughed, but often that He wept.
- This mournful mind state causes one to be armed against the many temptations that accompany the vain pursuit of **worldly** happiness.
- Those who mourn shall be comforted. They are not always immediately comforted, nonetheless, the promise of scripture demands that comfort shall surely come, if not in this world, certainly in the world to come, as surely as God Himself exists. The happiness of heaven consists in being perfectly and eternally comforted, and in the wiping away of all tears from their eyes. It is the joy of our LORD, the fullness of joy and pleasures for

- evermore which will be twice as sweet to those who have been prepared for them by this godly sorrow. Heaven will be all the more heavenly, a mountain of joy, to those who journey there through a vale of tears.

Isaiah 66:10-11

10 "Rejoice with Jerusalem, And be glad with her, all you who love her; Rejoice for joy with her, all you who mourn for her; **11** That you may feed and be satisfied With the consolation of her bosom, That you may drink deeply and be delighted With the abundance of her glory."



Greater Christ Temple
APOSTOLIC CHURCH



August 30, 2020

CHURCH IN THE PARK!

Lakeside Park (Pavilion #2)

1401 Lake Ave. Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Sunday School - 9:00 AM

Wear your favorite GreaterCTC shirt!

Morning Worship - 10:30 AM

Mark A. Haywood, senior pastor

Fellowship Cookout - following service!

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