

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 04

Apostle Mark A. Haywood
pastor / teacher

GreaterCTC.org



Matthew 5:6

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

- Blessed: (Gk. “makarios”) = Favored, fortunate, happy, supremely joyful, gifted (having received a gift)
- Righteousness = (Gk. “dikaiosune”) = equity of character or actions, right standing with God, the state of being right (equitable)
- Righteousness is a key to all spiritual blessings.

Matthew 6:33

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

- The blessings and promises of God were purchased for us by the righteousness of Christ, which brings to bear the immense importance of His sinlessness in life. Had Christ sinned, not only would He have been disqualified from being able to purchase our souls (for which the price was the blood/life of a sinless and perfect man), but also he would not have gained for us any favor (blessedness) from God. This blessedness is conveyed and secured by the impartation of Christ's righteousness to us.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (CJB)

21 God made this sinless man be a sin offering on our behalf, so that in union with him we might fully share in God's righteousness.

- This is righteousness, to have Christ, as He was made by God to be our righteousness, and to receive the righteousness of God in Him; to have the whole man renewed and recreated (born again) in the likeness of Christ's equitable and unquestionable character and acts, so as to become a new man, and to bear the image of God.
 - This was our original design, as God created man in His image (to be the manifested expression of His being) and after His likeness (to be like Him in character and conduct).
- We (the saints) have been re-created in the image of God, having a mind, will, and intellect which is presided over by the Spirit of God through the spirit of man.

- We have been born again in the likeness of God, obtaining, through Christ and in Christ, the righteous character and nature of God as manifested in the righteous conduct of the saints by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.
- We must hunger and thirst after righteousness. We must truly and really desire it, as one who is hungry and thirsty desire food and drink, who cannot be satisfied with anything but food and drink, and will be satisfied with these even if other things are lacking.
- Hunger and thirst are appetites that return frequently and call for fresh satisfactions. Likewise, the born-again soul calls for constant meals of righteousness, the grace to do the works of God every day. Those who truly seek a right relationship with God will consequently hunger for a fresh filling of righteousness as much as the living body daily calls for food.

- Those who hunger and thirst are willing to labor for the supply of their satisfaction (money = food), likewise we must not only desire this spiritual blessing, but take the right course of action in heart and mind as to acquire the desired righteousness. We cannot earn the righteousness of God as one earns money (food and drink), but, nonetheless, there is a specified means by which a person gains access to the free gift of God – **REPENTANCE**.
- Hunger is a desire for food to **sustain**. Thirst is a desire for drink to **refresh**. Righteousness, the divinely declared state of being in right standing with God by faith, sanctifies us (sets us apart unto God) and thereby **sustains** us through tests and trials, giving strength to continue on in faith! Righteousness is also the divinely bestowed state of guiltlessness, resulting from repentance, which covers and shields us from divine wrath. It **refreshes** the soul which was stained with sin and gives peace to the repentant heart.

- It is those who hunger and thirst (having a burning passion) for righteousness who shall receive it. God looks upon the hearts of mankind, therefore, He does not give His righteousness to those who would tread upon it and assign it no value. False repentance gains nothing, as it is confession without intent to change. But those who whole-heartedly desire to have and walk in the righteousness of Christ, and seek to manifest it in their daily dealings, these are those who shall be filled with it. Because God looks at His own righteousness upon these passionate worshippers, they are qualified to receive His favor, His joy, His peace, His abundant supply, and all of His promises. Truly **blessed** are they.



Greater Christ Temple APOSTOLIC CHURCH

2940 S. Anthony Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46806

Sunday School | 9:00 AM
Morning Worship | 10:30 AM

District Elder
Mark A. Haywood
senior pastor



LIVE

facebook.com/GreaterCTC