

THE BEATITUDES OF PSALM 119

Psa. 119:1, 2

708

Intro: The book of Psalms begins in this way.

So does the Sermon on the Mount as recorded by Matthew (in Matt. 5).

Coming as it does at the beginning of Psalm 119 it sets the tone for the whole Psalm, especially since these are the only two verses where you have beatitudes!

This is a Psalm of the Word -- with only 4 verses which do not refer specifically to the Word of God in one way or another.

Taking the two verses together, let us consider, first of all,

I. WHAT THEY ARE.

We must answer this by reading the verses in context, and by seeking to determine their meaning.

The first thing that strikes us as we read is that . . .

A. They are promises. (Read them.)

And since they are found here, we can say secondly that

B. They are promises of God.

This places them above mere human promises, even a promise which results from the experience of the Psalmist.

Thirdly,

C. They are a revelation from God.

This is the case because man would be left to his own understanding without the Word of God, and we can see by looking at the lives of men who ignore the Word that man would choose the wrong way in preference to the right way which would bring him the happiness which he seeks.

And, by the way, when the Psalmist speaks of blessedness, which means happiness, he touches on a theme which is of interest to every person throughout the earth!

But then we can also say that . . .

D. They are a revelation OF God.

We can see the heart of the Lord in these promises. Man

has the idea (and you even find it sometimes among believers) that if you do the will of God, you will not only be turning away from the things that will make you happy, but you will be turning to a lot of things that will make you miserable. This is the way people are inclined to feel about the Word of God.

These statements show what a lie that idea is. The Lord has given His Word for two reasons in connection with blessedness:

- 1) To guarantee our happiness.
- 2) To keep us from unhappiness.

Thus, what we have here cannot be accepted as mere human opinion; this is in a different category altogether -- promises from God which reveal to us the very heart of God Himself and His will for us.

Secondly, let us notice . . .

II. WHO THEY ARE FOR.

Note first that . . .

- A. The Psalmist is speaking of those who are "undefiled in the way."

Anyone with any idea of the character of God would be inclined to say that this excludes him. But it does not -- providing we realize that this Psalm, as all of the Bible promises, is written for those who have been cleansed from sin and saved through the grace of a loving God. He Himself fits us for His presence, for fellowship with Himself, and for His service.

But there is another mark of identification that is here. It is important to recognize this second point because as we look at the people of God we have to realize that not all Christians are happy.

What is it?

- B. The Psalmist is speaking of those who have a special interest in the Word of God -- called here "the law of the Lord" and "his testimonies."

So there can be no real happiness even for a child of God apart from the Word of God.

Psalm 1 has told us that!

This is really one of great proofs that he is saved!

The man who seeks the blessedness that comes from God will want to know the Word and will delight to read it.

But even this is not all because there are many Christians who read their Bibles, go to hear it preached regularly, who know its doctrines, but who are not happy.

So we come to a third description:

- C. The Psalmist is speaking of those who "walk" according to the Word, and who "seek him (the Lord) with the whole heart."

Will you note that one is outward, and the other is inward? One is for men to see (as well as God); the second can really be known only by the Lord and the individual person who is seeking this blessedness.

The "walk" speaks of that which extends to a person's entire life, and that which is constant -- day after day. No one is able to live perfectly, but the measure of our walking and seeking is the measure of our blessedness!

And it is interesting to see how the Psalmist here brings the Word and the Lord together -- the Word first, and then the Lord. This is because we must start with the Word, and it is in the Word that we find the Lord.

Seeking Him is not just looking for Him, but seeking to please Him!

Do you meet the conditions?

But let us look at one other thing:

III. WHAT THE BLESSINGS ARE.

They are too many to mention. But let me just give you a taste.

- A. First, there is the blessing of knowing the Word.

We do not really know it until it becomes our very life. This is taught by both verse 1 and 2.

- B. Second, there is the blessing of finding the Lord, of fellowship with Him.

And the more you enjoy the Lord, the more you will want to be with Him. See v. 8.

C. It will deepen your prayer life.

Read v. 5. You cannot know the Word or find the Lord without prayer -- much prayer! And the more you walk with Him, the more you will want to pray!

D. It will keep you from sin and from the shame that accompanies sin -- always.

See vv. 3, 6. Remember Psa. 119:11?

E. It will give you the satisfaction that you are pleasing the Lord.

What joy this brings to the heart of a child of God! Nothing can really please us that does not please Him. See v. 4.

And finally . . .

F. It will teach us to praise the Lord. See v. 7.

Such a life is impossible for us. He enables us to walk according to His Word, and then He pours in the blessings. And we know that it would never be done without the Lord -- and so we praise Him!

Concl. and Appl.: But this is just a sample of the blessings.

Read over Psa. 119 tonight and you will find many more, but you have to read the whole Bible to find them all!

But let me add this final word:

To have God's blessings does not mean that we are going to be free from trials and testings and sufferings.

But it does mean that with all of the trials the Lord will give us a blessed life which will carry us above the difficulties and continually fill our hearts with peace. Cf. Psa. 119:165.

May God cause us to cry out for His blessings, and then enable us to walk according to His Word that the blessings may come!