

## Doctrine of the Beatitudes

1. People desperately want to be happy. Unfortunately, individuals seek happiness in many wrong places.
2. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus provided eight ways to inner happiness. There is a blessing for those who embrace the principles of happiness.
  - *Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
  - *Matthew 5:4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.*
  - *Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.*
  - *Matthew 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*
  - *Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.*
  - *Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*
  - *Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.*
  - *Matthew 5:10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

**Special Note.**  
The words of Matthew 5:11 amplify the eighth beatitude concerning persecution, and can be incorporated into that one.

  - *Matthew 5:11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.*
3. The English word beatitude is derived from the Latin, *beatitudo*, from *beatus*, blessed. To be blessed is to enjoy exalted happiness.
4. Like his Lord, the apostle John, in the *Revelation*, gave to the church seven beatitudes.
  - *Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*
  - *Revelation 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.*

- *Revelation 16:15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.*
  - *Revelation 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*
  - *Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*
  - *Revelation 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.*
  - *Revelation 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*
5. In Scripture, eight may be seen to represent a new beginning, and festivity, reflected in the Feast of Tabernacles which lasted for eight days. Circumcision took place on the eighth day. In the New Covenant spiritual circumcision of the heart refers to faith in Christ, and the receiving of the Holy Spirit, thereby becoming a new creation.
- *Colossians 2:11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: 12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;*
  - *2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

There is a new beginning in the spiritual life of a Christian who embraces the teaching of the eight beatitudes given by Christ in the Sermon on the Mount.

6. In Scripture, seven is a symbol of completeness, or perfection. There is perfect happiness for those who honor the teachings of the Lord in the *Revelation*, and keep His commandments.