

CONFIRMATION

Introduction

9/3/06

“Chris had a vision. His vision was....

It is a healthy thing to occasionally look yourself in the mirror. I have been grappling with Jesus’ words we know called “THE BEATITUDES.” They are designed to “Confirm” our eternal condition before God. Our text:

¹*“When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. ²He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying,*

³*Blessed are the poor in spirit (those who realize their need for him), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

⁴*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

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

⁶*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (for justice), 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 have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

¹¹*Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.*

¹²*Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you” (NASB).*

Before jumping right in I believe it is important to lay a solid foundation. In order to till the soil of our hearts I would urge you to meditate upon these verses as a prelude to our upcoming study:

2 Corinthians 13:5 – ⁵*“Look closely at yourselves. Test yourselves to see if you are living in the faith. You know that Jesus Christ is in you—unless you fail the test.” (NCV)*

“Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don’t drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out.....” (ThM)

Hebrews 12:14 - ¹⁴*“Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord” (NIV).*

Matthew 5:20 - ²⁰*“For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven” (NIV).*

Titus 1:16 - ¹⁶*“They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good” (NIV).*

1 John 2:15-16 - ¹⁵*“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does – comes not from the Father but from the world” (NIV).*

James 4:4 - ⁴*“You adulterers! Don’t you realize that friendship with this world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again, that if your aim is to enjoy this world, you can’t be a friend of God” (NLT).*