

Voice of Baptists

"The Voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." **Isaiah 40:3**

VOL. 4

HUNTINGDON, TENN.

MARCH, 1982

NO. 12



THE BEATITUDES

Supreme Blessedness or Happiness

By Keith D. Frieze
Springfield, MO

"And it came to pass in those days, that he went out unto a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;" And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases;

Luke 6:12, 13, 17

The purpose of this introduction is to assure you to whom Jesus was addressing the "Great Sermon on the Mount". The local church was along with a mixed multitude of people (Matt. 5:1). May I ask this question? Is the local church reaping all of the BENEFITS and BLESSINGS that are her's to enjoy?

The sermon opens with the familiar "Beatitudes" which means, His promise of happiness with blessings and privileges, that no other organization can enjoy. Jesus thus directs this part of the sermon to His baptized believers, the first members of His Kingdom. Matt. 5:1-16. Today the older members of the church should be reminded and the young converts taught that God will grant these blessings through their obedience to His word.

There are eight steps in receiving these blessings. Matt. 5:3-10.

HAPPY is an excellent word explaining the word BLESSED.

Step 1, Verse 3

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for their's is the kingdom of heaven." We learn from this verse that the spirit is not poor, but rather we are poor in spirit. Blessed or (Happy) is the person who recognizes their limitations as a human, as well as, being a christian. We know

(Continued on Page 4)

OLD UNION BAPTIST MINISTERS SCHOOL



March 24-26, 1982

OLD UNION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH is happy to announce the date for the Tenth Annual Ministers School. It shall begin Wednesday, March 24, 1982 at 9:00 A.M. and continue for three days.

Teachers for this year's session will be: Elders Calvin Perrigo, Jerry Reynolds, W. T. Russell, J. H. Smith, Howard G. Taylor and H. C. (See Page 3)

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT OF "VOICE OF BAPTISTS"

1. THE TRINITY OF GOD - God, the Father; God, the Son; God, the Holy Spirit. One God in trinity, and trinity in unity.
2. THE INERRANCY OF SCRIPTURES - The SCRIPTURES are the infallible, plenary, inspired, verbal word of God.
3. THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT OF CREATION - That creation of earth, man and all things is the production of something from nothing by God, true and eternal.
4. THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN - The Bible uniformly represents Satan as the Person who entices man to sin.
5. HEREDITARY, TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF MAN IN FALL OF ADAM - The entire creation of man is sinful by nature, being descendants of Adam.
6. THE VIRGIN BIRTH AND DEITY OF CHRIST - God's only begotten and holy Son.
7. CHRIST'S BLOOD ATONEMENT FOR FALLEN MAN - The sin-debt, owed by man to God, was paid by the blood of Christ.
8. BODILY RESURRECTION OF CHRIST AND HIS ASCENSION BACK TO THE FATHER - Completely conquered death giving assurance to all men, and is now sat down at the right hand of God to mediate and intercede.
9. THE PERSON AND OFFICE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - Reproving the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.
10. SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST - God's grace entitles, enables and enlivens the sinner to the new life in Christ.
11. JUSTIFICATION BEFORE GOD BY REPENTANCE AND FAITH WITHOUT ANY ADMIXTURE

(Continued on Page 2)

VOICE OF BAPTISTS

(USPS 423-350)

P. O. Box 572

Huntingdon, Tenn. 38344

Kenneth W. Massey, Editor

STAFF WRITERS

James H. Smith, Nashville, Tenn.
 W. T. Russell, Bowling Green, Ky.
 F. W. Lambert, Westmoreland, Tenn.
 Harold D. Carver, Buena Vista, Tenn.
 Jerry A. Reynolds, Davisville, W. Va.
 Stephen M. Skinner, Springfield, Mo.
 Keith D. Frieze, Springfield, Mo.

CIRCULATION STAFF

Julie and Lance Massey

Huntingdon, Tenn.



It was freely given — by a
 God who sent His Son; by
 a Christ who gave His life.

Because He loves, God
 gives you material posses-
 sions, the "power to get
 wealth."

— Deut. 8:18

But

YOU CAN SHOW YOUR LOVE

You demonstrate your gratitude by
 the way you handle His property.

OF WORKS - "Not by works of
 righteousness which we have
 done, but according to his mercy
 he hath saved us."

12. SEPARATION OF GOD'S CHILDREN FROM THE WORLD - "Ye shall know a tree by the fruit it bears."
13. WATER BAPTISM (IMMERSION) TO BE ADMINISTERED TO BELIEVERS ONLY AND BY DIVINE AUTHORITY AS GIVEN BY OUR LORD TO HIS CHURCH.
14. A NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IS A LOCAL, VISIBLE BODY OF BAPTIZED BELIEVERS OBSERVING THE GREAT COMMISSION.
15. THE LORD'S SUPPER IS A CHURCH ORDINANCE, AS IS BAPTISM, AND IS TO BE ADMINISTERED TO BAPTIZED BELIEVERS IN SCRIPTURAL CHURCH CAPACITY ONLY.
16. ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER - Harmony of God's preserving the believer in Christ with the believer's persevering

through faith in Christ.

17. ESTABLISHMENT BY CHRIST OF HIS TRUE CHURCH DURING HIS PERSONAL MINISTRY ON EARTH - That Christ took saved and baptized people, and thus organized them into a little government with His Word as the only Law and Himself as the only Lawgiver.
18. A GOD-CALLED MINISTRY God impresses the hearts of some saved men to devote their lives to prayer and ministration of the word of God.
19. WORLD WIDE EVANGELISM WAS GIVEN BY CHRIST TO HIS CHURCH - We are debtors to carry the glorious gospel to every creature on earth.
20. PERPETUITY OF THE DOCTRINES OF BAPTIST CHURCHES FROM THE FIRST ADVENT OF CHRIST UNTIL HIS SECOND ADVENT - Though the Lord's true churches have gone by names given them by their enemies in other days, they have always been known by their doctrines.
21. THAT ALL SCRIPTURAL CHURCHES SHOULD BE HELD AS EQUAL UNITS AS TO THEIR RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES IN ASSOCIATED CAPACITIES - No big or little churches with one lording authority ever another.
22. THAT ALL ASSOCIATIONAL ASSEMBLIES ARE SERVANTS OF THE CHURCHES.
23. THAT WE BRAND AS UNSCRIPTURAL: OPEN COMMUNION, ALIEN BAPTISM, PULPIT AFFILIATION WITH HERETICAL MINISTERS, UNIONISM, FORMALISM, UNIVERSALISM, CAMPBELLISM, CATHOLICISM, CHARISMATICISM, PENTECOSTALISM, DEISM AND ALL OTHER RELIGIOUS PHILOSOPHIES OF MEN.
24. THE PERSONAL AND BODILY SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.
25. THE BODILY RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD, BOTH OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED.
26. THE REALITY OF HEAVEN, WITH DIVINE ASSURANCE OF ETERNAL HAPPINESS FOR ALL THE REDEEMED OF GOD.
27. THE REALITY OF HELL, WITH EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT OF THE INCORRIGIBLE WICKED.

THE PEOPLE HAD A MIND TO WORK

By Barry Witcher
 Lafayette, Tenn.

In the book of Nehemiah, we find recorded that during the years of Babylonian captivity, Nehemiah asked of his fellow Jew, Hanani, "concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem." (Chap. 1:2). Hanani's reply was that these people were "in great affliction and reproach....the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down and the gates thereof are burned down with fire." (Chap. 1:3). At this, Nehemiah wept, mourned, fasted, and prayed several days before the "God of Heaven", confessing his sins and the sins of his people.

Being the cupbearer of King Artaxerxes, Nehemiah was later in the king's presence, and the king inquired as to why he was saddened, Nehemiah then explained the plight of the Jews at Jerusalem, and requested the king's permission to return to Jerusalem to rebuild its wall.

This background leads us to my point, where in the 4th chapter and 6th verse of Nehemiah, we find this account of their progress in the rebuilding: "So we built the wall, and all the wall was joined unto the half thereof: **for the people had a mind to work.**"

This phrase indicates to me a condition that brings about success in the Lord's business, and that is, that we, as Christians, have a willingness to do his business, and to have our minds as well as our hearts set to do his work. After some surrounding enemies inspired to stop their work, Nehemiah records the course of action they pursued: "Nevertheless, we **made our prayer** unto God and **set a watch** against them day and night because of them." (Chapter 4:9) They first sought the Lord's help, for without His leadership we are helpless, and then set out to accomplish their task. They did not expect the Lord to do what they could.

In James 2:17, 18, we read "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead being alone. Yea a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works." James is of course not saying that works are necessary for salvation, but that after a person is saved, he must put his faith to "work" for that faith to be fruitful.

There is a great void in the Lord's work today in what we as saved individuals and church members should

be doing, and are doing. Part of the problem, is that we **do not see** the work before us, or do not have a mind to do the work we see. Do you see your responsibilities toward the general care of your church, mission work, the instruction of Sunday school classes, the upkeep of the Pastor and Church facilities, the attendance of Bible studies, singing schools, business conference and other "extra" activities as well as regular Sunday services? As laymen, we are duty bound to study the word of God, to be "able to withstand the gainsayers", to maintain family prayer and devotion (as our covenant says), and to be individual witnesses to the lost. The list could go on.

I am directing these thoughts at myself, as well as others, for a list of my own lackings could be endless. I am making no personal reflections on anyone, but rather I am making a general observation about a widespread problem. God's people are not striving as they should to win the lost, which is what the Lord's work is all about.

Many place themselves in the category of those who do not take a part in their Church's work and then complain of how that work turns out or how it is done. I know a person who was very zealous in a particular work for the Lord, and was discouraged at the lack of effort made by others. Suddenly he eased off in his efforts. His reasoning was that he thought he was possibly doing harm by doing "more than his share", and hoped by leaving some things undone, others would see the need of their help. I believe two mistakes were made here. The worse was that some did not share in their portion of labor and therefore discouraged the one who did. Secondly, the one who "eased off" in his efforts, failed to remember that if we do all we possibly can do, there is still plenty of work to go around. Though we are all like the one who became discouraged at times we should also remember that the Lord does reward us greatly for our efforts.

Another typical problem, is that many of us as laymen look to the pastor or perhaps at times the deacons to "do it all". The preacher is just a human being just like the rest of us with the exception that the Lord has burdened him to preach to the lost and "feed His sheep". I grant you that perhaps his responsibility is greater, but that does not lessen our responsibility. Most pastors are willing and eager to do all they can but let's be careful to see if we can resolve the situation at times first, and then if unsuccessful, ask our pastors to help.

When they were rebuilding the wall at Jerusalem, every man had a section he

was responsible for. I am sure if some left their portion unattended, others would have tried to assume their burden. There is a possibility, however, that if too many failed to do their task, there would be no way for the others to complete the wall, and the enemy would have "access to the city. Let us all ask the Lord for a "mind to work" that we might in a spiritual sense, rebuild our walls, so the enemy might not have ready access to us as he seemingly does today.

RELIGIOUS DISCUSSION

A four night discussion on the topic of "Water Baptism" will be held May 10, 11, 13 and 14, 1982 in Manslick Road Church of Christ, 4724 E. Manslick Road, Louisville, Kentucky.

The disputants are Donnie V. Rader, Minister of Manslick Road Church of Christ and Kenneth W. Massey, Pastor of the Independent Missionary Baptist Church of Huntingdon, Tenn.

The public is cordially invited.

1982 YOUTH DAY

Due to the tremendous response to last year's Youth Day, another was scheduled before leaving for Saturday, May 29, 1982, 10:00 A.M. CDT. Approximately 200 gathered for the spiritual feast a year ago.

Several of the youth gave wonderful testimonies to the saving power of God and times of special reassurance from Him. Drug Abuse was the primary topic of the occasion.

This year's format will include a focus on "Cults Today." Both on and off campus the cults may be more active in gaining the minds and souls of our coming generations than are we. Homes victimized by cults will be presented in depth.

Natchez Trace State Park will be the location of our gathering. Exit south off I-40 between Nashville and Memphis at the Natchez Trace State Park exit (116 mile marker) and follow the "Youth Day" signs. There is ample parking for buses. Make your plans to attend.

OLD UNION BAPTIST MINISTERS SCHOOL (Continued from Page 1)

Vanderpool. Timely subjects concerning the Lord's Church, Faith, The Scriptures and Personal Commitment will be presented.

Any minister attending for the first time should send the following Application Form to one of these addresses:

Dr. C. R. Hayes
Route 3
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Elder Paul Bryson
Rt. 9, Box 84
Bowling Green, Ky. 42101

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Name _____
 Street, Route or RFD _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Church _____
 Church Address _____
 Years in Ministry _____
 Are you () Ordained or () Licensed
 Do you now pastor a church? () Yes () No
 If so, give name of church _____
 Church Address _____

Please relate your experience of salvation and God's call for you to enter the ministry. Ministers' wives are invited to attend separate sessions to be given by Mrs. Evelle Massey, Mrs. Alta Vanderpool and Mrs. Annie Laura Smith. Tuition fee is \$20.00 for ministers or \$25.00 for minister and wife.

BEATITUDES

(Continued from Page 1)

that man's strength lies in God's power and will. "For in him we live, and move, and have our being; — Acts 17:28 "Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me except it were given thee from above." John 19:11 This step teaches us HUMILITY. The secret of living for God is "Humbledness".

Step 2, Verse 4

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." Through our submissiveness to God's will, we find ourselves in great need. The sure thing to do is to pray for his help and guidance. "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." Psalms 23:1 Most always we are in want, however, we do not have to stay in want. He is our shepherd and will supply our needs. This is true PENITENCE toward God in achieving this blessing.

Step 3, Verse 5

"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." Jesus was meek not weak, meaning tender, loving and kind. He was found stretching forth his merciful arms toward Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum, after upbraiding them for their sin of unbelief, saying "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am "MEEK" and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matt. 11:28-30. Jesus, is also telling his church here in this verse that she shall inherit the earth. This is the new earth and the new heaven. Now we can leave this step of MEEKNESS and go higher.

Step 4, Verse 6

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; For they shall be filled." If we find ourselves hungry and thirsty naturally we start seeking and searching for food and drink. So it is spiritually. We must be fed with spiritual food. Happy are they who seek and find that spiritual food. Those who find it keep their health and strength by feasting on the word of God. Nothing can substitute for a God called preacher filled with the Spirit of God, delivering the word of God in great power and heavenly wisdom. This is the true gospel. This gospel will satisfy hunger and thirst to overflowing of the heart of the church. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God, shall man live." Deut. 8:33.

There are two groups of Beatitudes. The first four just discussed deal with

personal qualities, humility, penitence, meekness, self-control and desire to be filled with righteousness. The relationship between a christian and God is the source of inner peace.

To successfully carry out the last four beatitudes to the glory of God, church members individually or collectively must become fully qualified in the first four.

The last four deal with social qualities pertaining to our relationship with our fellowman. Some of my happiest times is spent helping someone else to be happy.

Step 5, Verse 7

"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." We should be willing to help supply the needs of others both tangibly and spiritually, rather than only try to supply for our own and say by our actions, they are solely responsible for their own. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Mark 12:31. "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." Matt. 7:12. If we are merciful to others somewhere down the road God will lead someone to help you and yours. This action takes away self-righteousness with a conceited and selfish attitude.

Step 6, Verse 8

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." This starts with heart felt salvation. How shall we point others to our Lord, if we have not been purified in heart ourselves? Christians should be honest, just, loving, and faithful in all their actions. Read Romans 12:14-21. This expresses INWARD PURITY.

Step 7, Verse 9

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall see God: We should strive to be more like Jesus, for He is the Prince of peace. I love to live in peace, and work with peaceable people. Many things are necessary to make up a strong church. One has a great advantage in achieving the goals if he can direct a church body under peaceable conditions. It is very harmful for one member to constantly stir up trouble. It is the PEACEMAKERS that shall be called the children of God. The Apostle Paul wrote, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." Romans 12:18

Step 8, Verse 10

"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake: for their's is the kingdom of heaven. Self-sacrificing loyalty to righteousness and suffering for Christ is not popular, nor is it easy to do, but truly it is rewarding. Read Matt. 5:43-44. Verses 11 & 12 of this chapter

also explains the results. "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

When individual members of the church spiritually climb this special stairway together to the throne of Grace they carry out the mission which Jesus commanded. They can then be referred to as "The Salt of the Earth" and "The Light of the World." SALT is a preservative element; LIGHT is a life giving one; but the world is not eager to be preserved or willing to receive life. By their character and deeds they are to make their influence a force for good in the lives of men. In this sense the members of the Kingdom are the SALT of the earth, the LIGHT of the world. Pray for me.

HOW MUCH IS IT WORTH?

Once upon a time there was a chronic complainer in the church who went to one of the deacons and said, "Our church is costing too much. I am sick and tired of these repeated requests."

The deacon replied, "I want to tell you a story right out of my own life. Some years ago a son was born in my home, and from the time he was born he cost me money. I had to buy food, clothing and medicine. Then, when he started to school, he cost me more, and when he went away to high school and later to college, the expenses were even greater. When he was in college he started to go out with the girls, and you know how that cost. In his senior year at college, he suddenly took ill and died, and he hasn't cost me a cent since; no, not one cent."

DEAD OR ALIVE?

A dead or dying church never makes requests for money but a church that is alive — with a glowing, going, and growing ministry — will continually remind its members to bring their offerings into the storehouse, even as God has commanded.

YUMA REVIVAL

There will be a revival at Yuma Baptist Church, Yuma, Tenn. March 1-5, 1982. Evangelist is Bro. Jimmy Bailey from Atalla, Alabama. Bro. Jack Hopper is pastor of Yuma Church. Services each night beginning at 7:00 p.m. EVERYONE WELCOME!