

HOW TO BE HAPPY AND LIVE THE BLESSED LIFE

TEXT: *Matthew 5:11: Blessed are ye, when people shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake.* [The Words of Jesus]

THEME: Reviled and Persecuted for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake.

INTRODUCTION: Some of our Bible teachers have expressed the idea that our Lord Jesus should have combined these last 2 Blessed Beatitudes since they deal with practically the very same subject matter. The Lord Jesus is much wiser than we will ever be, and He put these nine Beatitudes together exactly as they ought to be discoursed.

Although there is a similarity in these two verses, the contents are very different in what motivates the persecutions. In verse 10, those who are allergic to Righteousness Doctrine being expounded are those who are doing this persecuting. Those who are doing all this persecuting are more often than not amongst the professing Christians. That which fans their fires of persecution is other Christians who are preaching and teaching holiness, heart purity, righteousness, and godliness of life as a necessity to make it into the Kingdom of Heaven and into Heaven itself.

Hebrews 12:14: Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

This scripture is case in point. Christ is coming for a glorious church not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish.



In **Ephesians 5:25-27**, it says Christ is going to present us to Himself as holy and unblameable and unreprouvable.

Ephesians 5:25-27:

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

²⁶ That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word,

²⁷ That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

1 Thessalonians 3:13: To the end He may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-7:

³ For this is the Will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

⁴ That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

⁵ Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

⁶ That no man goes beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

⁷ For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

Luke 1:6: And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

Zacharias and Elizabeth were both righteous before God, walking blameless in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord.

Luke 1:74–75:

⁷⁴ That He would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear,

⁷⁵ In holiness and righteousness before Him, all the days of our life.

Hebrews 1:8: Thy throne O God, is forever and ever: a Scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Thy Kingdom.

Psalms 23:1 and 3:

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.



Therefore, we must conclude: If I'm a true follower of Christ according to:

John 10:11: I am the good shepherd: the good Shepherd giveth His life for the Sheep.

John 10:14: I am the good Shepherd, and know My sheep, and am known of Mine.

John 10:27: My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me:

Then I will, of necessity, be walking in paths of righteousness and not living in unrighteousness. I will say a hearty amen to **1 Corinthians 15:34**. In it we are commanded to: **awake to righteousness and sin not.**

And since we are to be partakers of the divine nature, we also will love righteousness and hate iniquity, just as our Master does.

2 Peter 1:4: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the Divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Hebrews 1:9: Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

QUESTION: Is that so in your life? It should also apply to my life, don't you think?

ANSWER: We only brought these Scriptures in to reveal what fans up fury in some ranks.

We return to our text where we now discover the revilings and persecutions coming from a different cause. They come against us for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, where in the previous verse, the persecutions' main cause was motivated by people who were living unrighteous lives, attacking those who were living the righteous lifestyle.

This reviling and persecuting is now coming from an entirely different motive. These are for Jesus' sake. The persecuting are similar, alright; therefore, they are related to the previous verse which deals with *for righteousness sake*.

However, in this verse the persecutions relate specifically to that phase of righteousness which comes from the Lord Jesus Christ as our imputed righteousness. The following verses will help to explain this to you a little better.

(a) Jeremiah 23:6: In His days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is His Name whereby He shall be called, THE

LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Note: This is a prophecy of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, His Name, and His Title is: THE LORD OUR (our, our, our - - we're repeating it only for emphasis sake) RIGHTEOUSNESS. This is that *imputed* righteousness which we receive from the Lord Jesus Christ, and it is accredited to our account which was once bankrupt, as far as being righteous was concerned.

- (b) **Note:** This verse and the preceding verse are so important that the Holy Spirit will run it by us again in **Jeremiah 33: 15-16** saying the very same thing. So, if you overlooked it on your first study of these Scriptures, He will bring it to us again, hopeful that it does not escape our attention on this second round. This is what is repeated:

Jeremiah 33:15-16:

¹⁵In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of Righteousness to grow up unto David; and He shall execute Judgment and Righteousness in the land.

¹⁶ In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The Lord our Righteousness.

QUESTION: Did you take notice of only one little word that is different in the second verse from the quoted verse in **Jeremiah 23:5-6**?

ANSWER: In **Jeremiah 23:5-6**, the pronoun *HE* is given for it relates to Christ, personally. In **Jeremiah 33:15-16**, the pronoun *SHE* is given for it relates to Christ personally — the Church, the Body of Christ (composed of both Jews and Gentiles), and The Bride of Christ. We, who have received Christ's righteousness, have had that righteousness imputed to us.

Listen to the followers which will give additional insight and clarification to what is being said here. The further we go in studying The Word, the more light is shown upon our path. The Bible is a progressive revelation of divine truth.

- (c) ***Isaiah 54:17: No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their***

righteousness is of Me, saith the Lord.

Question: Did you take notice where our righteousness comes from? What its source actually is?

- (d) ***Psalms 24:5: He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of His Salvation.***
- e) ***Matthew 6:33: But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.***
- (di) ***Romans 3:21-22:***
 - ²¹ But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the Prophets;***
 - ²² Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:***
- (dii) ***1 Corinthians 1:30: But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, Who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:***
- (diii) ***Philippians 1:11: Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.***
- (div) ***2 Corinthians 5:21: For He [God Almighty] hath made Him [the Lord Jesus Christ] to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.***

The Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ are our divine sources of our righteousness. Therefore, when we are *persecuted* or *reviled for Jesus' sake*, you can see that the persecuting and reviling makes us a target to shoot at for those who are unrighteous and ungodly.

When we fully are awakened to this fact, we will not be intimidated or carry around hurt feelings due to the *persecutions* and *revilings* which we are the recipients, but we are told by the Lord Jesus in the following verse what we are supposed to do.



We hope and pray these comments will help give a little better background study on

our present study on the 9th Beatitude. Before we come to the main subject of being *reviled* for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, please bear with me for a little while as we call several things to your attention concerning this 9th Beatitude. It may escape someone's attention, and might prove a great blessing to all of us while being refreshed to our memories.

1. **Did you observe in this 9th Beatitude that Christ is directing these last two verses very personally to us? He said: "*Blessed are ye.*" Each of the other 8 Beatitudes is an indirect reference. This last Beatitude is personalized and directed immediately to the *reviled* and the *persecuted for His sake*.**
2. Some people, in the cults, who are scoffed and ridiculed for their perverted beliefs try to take comfort in this last Beatitude. They, however, need to take a much closer look at these two verses. The Lord Jesus said two qualifying reasons are necessary for us to be blessed and enjoy a great reward in heaven.
Namely:
 - (a) ***Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake***. So be sure that we fit into that category.
 - (b) Second, the *revilings* and *persecutions* are **for the Lord Jesus' sake**, and not for our own blunders.
3. Did you take notice that these two verses which compose the 9th Beatitude are by far the longest in all of the preceding 8th Beatitudes? Why not count the lines in each of the preceding ones, and then in this last one. There is something very significant in this last one, being nearly triple in length.
4. Next, the reward which Christ promises to these dear reviled ones and those who are persecuted for His sake shall be great in Heaven. This is the first time and the only time our Lord uses the term *great* in all of these blessed Beatitudes. This speaks to me a heartwarming and comforting message. Those who have been the most hurt, the most insulted, and the most ridiculed will be blessed the most; that is: **Providing that it comes for Jesus' sake**.
5. Christ instructs those who are reviled and persecuted for His sake, to rejoice and be exceedingly glad. None of the other eight are endowed with this

superabundance of heavenly joy and gladness. This is quite significant, for joy and gladness are constructive emotions, and health-building and restoring emotions. Not only is this true physically, but especially is this a fact from the emotional side of our well-being. On the other end of the spectrum, those emotions of hate, bitterness, anger, fear, worry, or anxiety are emotional and physical health destroyers.



6. Another observation: Christ is telling His reviled and persecuted ones that they have good company, in that they are on the brunt end of the ill-will of the world or possibly of backsliders, also. Jesus said that this same kind of treatment was bestowed upon His Holy Prophets in past generations. This gives us some insight into a source from whence revilings and persecutions arise, which we may not have taken into consideration. Those Israelites who were dabbling in sin or were in a backslidden condition were the ones who gave the Lord's prophets a hard time.

So it is today, those Christians who are living soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world according to **Titus 2:11-14** will most likely be the target for insults from those who are not living the way they should. In that very passage of Scripture, it declares unto us the kind of church which our Blessed Lord is coming for — one that is redeemed *from* (not *in*) all iniquity, and purified by Christ. This passage ought to be linked with **1 John 3:2-3**. You will see why when you squeeze all the juice out of that portion of The Word.

Titus 2:11-14:

¹¹For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

¹²Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

¹³Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

¹⁴Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

1 John 3:2-3:

2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.

3 And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.

7. The seventh observation which we are noticing is: *The closer we get to Jesus the more like Him we become, the less we will be appreciated by those who are the most unlike Him.* They, who persecute and do the reviling are revealing the degree of the impurity and the filthiness which is in their own hearts.

Matthew 5:11: Blessed are ye when people shall revile you and persecute you and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake.

OUR SUBJECT: Reviled for Jesus' sake

QUESTION: What is the meaning of this word *reviled*?

ANSWER: Most of us have a fairly good idea, but it would help for us to have a little review just to refresh our memories.

DEFINITION: REVILED - To reproach, to treat with contempt, to speak with abusive language.

Seven Scriptures relate to *Revile* or *Reviled*. Scriptures relate to the word *revile* or *reviled*:

Isaiah 51:7-8:

7 Harken unto Me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is My law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.

8 For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but My righteousness shall be for ever, and My salvation from generation to generation.

That last verse really takes the cake. There isn't one here on earth who can say it just like the Lord can. This 8th verse would even make a possum grin a little bit.

QUESTION: Did you take notice that righteousness is associated with reproach of men and the cause of their revilings?

QUESTION: Did you observe our Lord's admonition that we are not to fear or be afraid of their sarcasm and cynical remarks? It would be most beneficial to take a good look at the following:

Isaiah 51:12-13:

¹²I, even I, am He that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass;

¹³And forgettest the LORD thy Maker, that hath stretched forth the Heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor?

A) The Lord is putting us to shame when we allow our revilers and persecutors to get the best of us. We are connected with the Almighty God, The Creator of all things. HE will fight our battles with the oppressors and persecutors. HE promised us:

Isaiah 54:17: No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue [get that now EVERY TONGUE] that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of Me, saith the LORD.

B) The next verse is dealing with *reviling*, and takes us to Calvary.
Matthew 27:39: And they that passed by reviled Him [Jesus Christ], wagging their heads,

C) ***Mark 15:32: Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the Cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with Him [Christ] reviled Him.***

D) ***John 9:28: Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art His [the Lord Jesus Christ] disciple; but we are Moses' disciples.***

E) ***1 Corinthians 4:12b: . . . being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer [endure] it:***

- F) **1 Corinthians 6:9-10:**
⁹ Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,
¹⁰ Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the Kingdom of God.



*Beware !!! A very special warning is set forth in this passage of Scripture concerning revilers, in particular, since this is the subject at hand, and up for our present discussion. Since revilers are **excluded** from the Kingdom of God, a word to the wise is sufficient. This verse, in itself, should cool off those who are inclined in that direction, especially amongst the carnal minded.*

God's Word has something to say to those who profess to be Christians, and are yet carnal:

1 Corinthians 3:1-3:

¹ And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

² I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

³ For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

Who have not, as yet, died out to the old self and sin:

Romans 6:17: But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

Romans 6:1-2:

¹ What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

² God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Nor put off the old man which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts:

Ephesians 4:22-24:

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Nor crucified the flesh with its affections and lusts:

Galatians 5:24: And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

There is a need to experience all of these vital Bible experiences as a safeguard in their relationship to fellow Christians who have experienced these necessary growth-in-grace experiences. Some have a tendency to join in with the revilers and the persecutors who are discrediting and disregarding those who have arrived, or are in the process of arriving at these deeper experiences in grace.

Colossians 3:1-10:

1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right Hand of God.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, Who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory.

5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him Who created him:

- G) **1 Peter 2:23: Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him [Almighty God] Who Judgeth Righteously:**

QUESTION: Did you observe that each and every one of these six scripture references to being *reviled directly* or *indirectly* are associated or related to Christ or Righteousness? As in **Isaiah 51:8:**

Isaiah 51:8: For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but My righteousness shall be for ever, and My salvation from generation to generation.

ANSWER: This fact reveals to us exactly what our Lord Jesus is saying to us in:

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 . . .

Or, for *righteousness sake* as in the previous reference in verse 10.

NOTE: For the sake of the Name of the Lord Jesus — The Beatitude in **Matthew 5:11:**

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.

1. **Matthew 10:22: And ye shall be hated of all men for My Name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.**
2. **Matthew 16:25: For whosoever will save [spare] his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it.**
3. **Matthew 19:29: And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My Name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.**
4. **Mark 10:29-30:**
²⁹ And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My sake, and the Gospel's,

- ³⁰ But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.**
5. **Mark 13:9: But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for My Name's sake.**
 6. **Luke 6:22: Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake.**
 7. **John 15:21: But all these things will they do unto you for My Name's sake, because they know not Him Who sent Me.**
 8. **Acts 9:15: But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he [Saul] is a chosen vessel unto Me, to bear My Name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:**
 9. **Romans 8:36-37:**

³⁶ As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us.
 10. **Romans 15:30-31:**

³⁰ Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;

³¹ That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints;
 11. **1 Corinthians 4:10: We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised.**
 12. **2 Corinthians 4:5: For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.**
 13. **2 Corinthians 4:11: For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our**

mortal flesh.

14. ***2 Corinthians 12:10: Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.***
15. ***Ephesians 4:32: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.***
16. ***Philippians 1:29: For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake;***
17. ***1 Peter 2:13-14:***
¹³ Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;
¹⁴ Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.
1 John 2:12: I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His Name's sake.
18. ***3 John 1:7-8:***
⁷ Because that for His Name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.
⁸ We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.
19. ***Revelation 2:3: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for My Name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.***
20. ***Isaiah 43:25: I, even I, am He Who blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine Own sake, and will not remember thy sins.***

Brother, sister, Let me just say, "If that does not set your soul on fire, then your wood is wet!"

That's not all, there's something more - - - - -

TEXT: *Matthew 5:12: Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in Heaven: for so persecuted they the Prophets which were before you.*

1. The Lord Jesus is telling His people who are reviled and persecuted for HIS

Name's sake to keep their eyes and thoughts and attention focused on the future rewards now awaiting them up there, on the sunny shores of sweet deliverance — Heaven. That is sound advice for all of us. For, we are inclined to dwell on the persecutors and on the nature of the persecutions and revilings, and then get the blues and 'grubby-mugs', feeling sorry for ourselves.

To keep our attention and affections stayed on Christ and our future home will cheer us all up.

2. Some Christians amuse and others amaze me when they say that we ought to get some goodies in the now, and not have to wait 'till the sweet-by-and-bye". They do not realize those rewards are kept up there for safety's sake and for their security. What we would receive down here will be only temporary. But that which is laid up for us on the other side is eternal. Wisdom will tell us to focus our attention on the eternal rather than on the temporal.

3. The Lord Jesus said in **Matthew 5:12**: ***"Great is your reward in Heaven"***.

When He calls anything **"Great"**, well that is something else!!!

And, I do not believe we will have long to wait!



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